

## RAJYA SABHA

(1966)

### Point of privilege

*Alleged incorrect statement made by a Minister in the House*

### Facts of the case and ruling by the Chairman

On the 26th August, 1966. Sarvashri Bhupesh Gupta and Raj Narain members, sought <sup>1</sup> to raise a question of privilege against Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. in relation to a statement made by him in the House on the 11th August, 1966, concerning a news report which appeared in the Statesman of New Delhi, dated the 10th August, 1956, under the caption 'Sabotage plans by C.P.I. claimed'. In his statement, Shri Hathi had denied that the information as was mentioned in the newsreport had been given by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The members drew attention to a subsequent editorial appearing in the same paper of August, 26, 1966 under the heading 'Home Truth' which, according to the members, virtually repudiated the statement made on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the 11th August. by Shri Hathi. The members sought that the issue should be referred to the Committee of Privileges to find out the truth of Shri Hathi's statement in the House.

2. Shri Hathi in his statement, reiterating the stand he had taken earlier stated inter alia as follows: --

"So far as I am concerned. Sir, I may say that at the time I made that statement I had made it according to my knowledge. that the Home Ministry or none from the Home Ministry had given this information outside. That is what I know. As regards the subsequent letter and other things. I am not concerned at this time. When the statement was made I knew what I said and said what I knew."

3. The Chairman (Dr. Zakir Hussain) reserved his ruling.

4. On the 27th August, 1966, the Chairman observed<sup>2</sup> inter alia as follows:-

"On the submissions made before me, I am unable to hold that a case has been made out to Drove that Shri Hathi made any statement in this House which he believed to be untrue on August 11, 1966, and he attempted to mislead the House. I accordingly withhold my consent for raising the question of breach of privilege,"

1. R.S. Deb., dt. 26.8.1966

2. Ibid, dt. 27.8.1966