

## **RAJYA SABHA**

(1983)

### **Point of privilege**

*Alleged misleading of the House by a Minister*

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

On 8th December, 1983, the Chairman (Shri M. Hidayatullah) observed<sup>1</sup> as follows:-

"On November 17th, 1982 Shri Satya Pal Malik gave notice of breach of privilege against the Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, for having' deliberately misled the House in his reply to Unstarred Question No. 110 answered in Rajya Sabha on November 15th, 1983 regarding investments by non-resident Indians in the Reliance Textile Industries Limited.

This notice was presumably based on certain press reports to the effect that some of the companies mentioned by the Minister in his replies to questions in the House in July-August did not exist in U.K. on the date when permission was given to them by the RBI to invest in the Reliance Textile Industries Limited. I had referred the matter to the Minister for his comments. The Minister admitted that there was inaccuracy in describing the place of incorporation of those companies. The companies were incorporated in the 'Isle of Man' and not in U.K. This unfortunately caused some confusion and resulted in Shri Satya Pal Malik raising a breach of privilege issue. The Minister also corrected this in his replies to earlier questions on the subject by laying a correcting statement on the Table of the House on November 22nd, 1983. I, therefore, did not consider that there was any intention on the part of the Minister to mislead the House and withheld my consent to the raising of the question as a breach of Privilege."

1 R.S. Deb., dt. 8-12-1983.