

വിധത്തിലോ, അവർക്കുള്ള ശമ്പളക്കുടിശ്ശിക എത്രയും വേഗം കൊടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഒരു അനുഗ്രഹമായിരിക്കും. ഈ വസ്തുത ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയാണ് ഞാൻ ഒരു മോഷൻ ഇവിടെ ഹാജരാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളത്.

**വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവകുപ്പുമന്ത്രി (ശ്രീ. ജോസഫ് മുണ്ടശ്ശേരി) :** ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ശ്രീ. നാരായണക്കുറുപ്പ് ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി മലബാർ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുള്ള അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാർക്കു് കറെ മാസങ്ങളായി ശമ്പളം കൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നും അതുകൊണ്ടു് അവർക്കു് വലിയ കഷ്ടതകളും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നു എന്നും. ഈ കാര്യത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് എനിക്ക് പറയാവാനുള്ളതു് ഈ ഗവണ്മെൻറു് അധികാരത്തിൽ വരുന്നതിനു മുൻപുണ്ടായിരുന്ന കുടിശ്ശികയ്ക്കു് വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഈ ഗവണ്മെൻറു് അല്പം ഉത്തരവാദി എന്നും, എന്നാൽ ജൂൺ മാസത്തിനു ശേഷമുള്ള ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു് അടിയന്തിരമായി ഏർപ്പാടു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു് എന്നുമാണു്. അതിനു മുൻപുള്ള ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കാനുള്ള ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം ഈ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് അതു് കൊടുപ്പിക്കാൻ പെട്ടെന്നു തന്നെ നടപടികൾ എടുക്കണമെന്നു് പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതു് സാധിക്കുമോ എന്നു് എനിക്ക് തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

**ശ്രീ. എം. നാരായണക്കുറുപ്പ് :** കഴിഞ്ഞ കാലങ്ങളിൽ ആ സ്കൂളുകൾക്കു് നൽകാനുള്ള ഗ്രാൻറു് മുഴുവനും നൽകിയിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിൽ ആ ഗ്രാൻറിൽനിന്നും അവരുടെ ശമ്പളം പിടിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമല്ലോ. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ നിയമപരമായ മാർഗ്ഗത്തിൽ കൂടി മാത്രമേ ഗവണ്മെൻറു് നടപടികൾ എടുക്കുകയുള്ളൂ എന്നുള്ള ഒരു മനോഭാവത്തിനു് അർപ്പം അയവു വരുത്തണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്ക് പറയാവാനുള്ളതു്.

### Papers Laid on the Table.

**Minister for Law (Shri V. R. Krishna Iyer) :** Sir, I lay on the table the Supplementary Budget Estimate of the Kerala State Electricity Board for the year 1957-58 as required by sub-section (3) of Section 61 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

**Finance Minister (Shri C. Achutha Menon) :** Sir, I lay on the table the Statements of Assets and Liabilities, Profit and Loss Account, Audit Report and Report on the working of the Kerala Financial Corporation for the year ended 31st March 1957.

### Breach of Privilege by a Newspaper

**ശ്രീ. എം. നാരായണക്കുറുപ്പ് :** സർ, കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ അസംബ്ലിയിലിരുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ ഒരു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെംബർ ഒരു അവകാശലംഘനപ്രമേയം ഈ സഭയിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട സ്പീക്കർ അവയെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിച്ചു് ഒരു തീർപ്പു് കല്പിക്കുന്നതാണെന്നു് അന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. ആ കാഴ്ചത്തെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള തീർപ്പു് എന്താണെന്നു് അറിയാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു.

**Mr. Speaker :** Yes, I shall give the ruling if you are so very particular about it.

Order, order. I had promised this House my ruling upon the notice given by Mr. C. A. Mathew on the 20th June 1957 to raise a question of a breach of privilege of the House arising out of the editorial in the 'Kaumudi' a local daily in its issue dated 20th June 1957.

The editorial in question is given the heading "Speaker" and is devoted entirely to criticising the conduct of the Speaker in the discharge of his duties as the Speaker. Having gone

through the previous rulings in the House of Commons, the Central Assembly and the Lok Sabha, I find that what would amount to a breach of privilege is the imputation of partiality to the Speaker. As early as 1926 in the Central Assembly it was ruled that the Press is at liberty to criticise the conduct of the Chair as much as it pleases without casting or suggesting any reflection on its partiality. For the benefit of the members I shall reproduce the ruling:

"The Chair welcomes the statement just made by the honourable the Home Member on behalf of the Government. It gives the Chair an opportunity to express its view on this newspaper report which has evoked the statement from the Home Member. The attention of the Chair has been drawn to the writing under the heading "From our Special Correspondent" appearing in a certain newspaper. There is no doubt that the statement contains an insinuation of partiality directed against the Chair and the publication of such an insinuation constitutes in the opinion of the Chair a grave breach of the privileges of the House, deserving of the severest condemnation. The Chair however is not prepared to take a serious view of the matter at present and hopes that the statement made by the Home Member will have the desired effect on the newspaper concerned and it will express its unqualified regret for its publication of the report in question forthwith. If the matter is again mentioned by any member of the House at a later date complaining that the newspaper in question is unrepentant, the Chair will pass such orders against it as are permissible. The Press must know that no suggestion of partiality however remote, directed against the Chair will be tolerated. At the same time the Press is fully entitled to criticise the conduct of the Chair as much as it pleases without casting or suggesting any reflection on its partiality. The Speaker must guard and maintain his reputation for impartiality of all things at any cost, and he cannot do so if he allows such suggestions or insinuations to pass unnoticed."

The editorial in question criticises the Speaker in very harsh and strong language, no doubt. It contains insinuations and blunt statements that the Speaker is ignorant, a worthless and vainglorious man, and deserves the Nobel Prize for giving rulings that cannot be respected. The method and language to be used for criticism by a newspaper editor is a matter that is not to be dictated but decided by the sponsors of the paper themselves depending upon their taste. According to some, the level kept by the paper may be low and to some others it may be otherwise. What we are concerned with is whether partiality has been imputed to the Speaker. In one portion of the editorial it is made clear that they do not want to do so: "സ്ലീക്കർ പക്ഷപാതപരമായി ഭൂതഭൂതശക്തിയുടെ പെരുമാറ്റത്തെ എന്ന് ആരോ പണം നടത്താനല്ല ഇത്രയും മുങ്ങിക്കാണിച്ചത്." Whatever the other



portions of the editorial may suggest, I would request the honourable House to be benevolent and to refrain from questioning the honesty of the sponsors of the editorial.

But I may point out that every conclusion drawn by the paper is based on wrong and untrue facts.

It is quite possible that a paper whose accreditation has been withdrawn grows indignant over it without caring to go into the merits or demerits of the action taken against it. In its fury the language may sometimes run riot. But I am of the view that decent journalism demands careful ascertainment of the truth involved in news and facts published by them, especially so when they cannot have direct access to the source from where the news are obtainable. That this paper did not observe it was really unfortunate.

The punishment that is found to be meted out to newspapers for this kind of breach of privilege is the withdrawal of press facilities, though it is within the competence of the House to award more severe forms of punishment.

Since in the case of this paper; there is nothing to be withdrawn I request the House to take a more liberal and lenient view of the matter because the newspaper itself seems to have been emboldened to write the editorial in this manner on its own admission on account of this fact. It has prescribed the maximum punishment for breach of privilege and contended itself by saying that it is already under that punishment. Probably, if it had known that the House is competent to resort to more severe forms, it might not have done so.

I am sure that the Press in this country would not copy or imitate the example of this paper because they are sufficiently enlightened to be alive to their sense of responsibility to the news reading public of this country.

Under these circumstances I don't find myself justified in referring the matter to the Committee of Privileges and assure the House that any attempt to commit a breach of privilege of the House will not be allowed to pass unnoticed. It will be more prudent and more in keeping with the dignity of the House if we simply ignore such misuse of the invaluable right of the freedom of the press and leave the rest to decent democratic opinion without affording opportunity for sensation, the creation of which, probably, may be exactly what the authors of the editorial are in search of.

We will now pass on to the Legislative Business.

#### LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

##### **The Payment of Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1957.**

*Chief Minister (Shri E. M. S. Namboodiripad) :*

I move that the Payment of Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill be finally passed.