

Parliament House,
New Delhi.

December 3, 1969.

The Speaker,
Lok Sabha,
New Delhi.

1254

Sir,

I refer to reply to the Starred Question No. 385 given this morning by Deputy Minister for External Affairs Mr. Surendra Pal Singh in the Lok Sabha regarding non-delivery of letter to Madam Svatlana's children by an Indian diplomat.

The Government of India in denying that no such letter was received by Mr. Jaipal Singh, our diplomat who was in 1966-67 posted in Moscow has committed a breach of privilege of the House. Madam Svatlana in her latest book "Only One Year" has clearly stated that when Mr. Jaipal Singh met her in Switzerland for taking an statement from her that the Government of India did not help her in any way in leaving the country she asked him whether he would deliver a letter to her children in Moscow. The same was given to Mr. Jaipal when he promised to deliver the letter to Madam Svatlana's children. According to Madam Svetlana when she came to know only after two weeks that this letter was never delivered to her children. She came to know this when she got a telephone call from Moscow.

There have been adverse comments about the Government of India keeping back that letter specially when it was of a personal nature and our diplomat had undertaken to deliver the same to her children. There are reports that this letter is still buried in the archives of the External Affairs Ministry. Some others have apprehended that that letter must have gone to the Russian Embassy in New Delhi or the authorities in Kremlin.

By denying that that letter was ever delivered by Madam Svetlana to the Indian diplomat, the Deputy Minister has definitely misled the House and thus committed a breach of privilege of the House. He may either be asked to correct the reply under Direction 115(1) of the Directions by the Speaker or may be treated as a privilege motion under Rule 224 of the Rules and Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.

This notice may please be allowed to be taken up in the House tomorrow after Question Hour.

Yours truly,