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REGISTERED A/D

April 13, 1992
Col/846

Mr. T.S. Ahluwalia,
Joint Secretary,
Lok Sabha Secretariat,
Parliament House Annexe,
Parliament Street,
NEW DELHI 110 001.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 18th March, 1992, addressed to me has been forwarded to me by The Statesman office in Calcutta and I hasten to reply..

My comments are as follows:

1. As you will see, the remark made by me follows from the shock with which I witnessed the unruly conduct of a few Members of Parliament on 29th February 1992. My record as a Member of the Lok Sabha testifies to the fact that I was always a law-abiding Member who obeyed the Hon'ble Speaker. I was, therefore, shocked at the unruly behaviour of a few Members of Parliament which I witnessed on Doordarshan on 29th February. As you will see, I went on to refer to the indiscipline with which these Members treated the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
2. It is throughout clear that my reference was to a handful of Members and not to Members of the Lok Sabha as a whole.
3. There is nothing abusive of the word, "hooliganism" which according to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, means "a noisy rough person who causes trouble by fighting, breaking things, etc.". There is thus, no personal aspersions cast on any Member of Parliament.

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4. I believe that my remark was a fair comment on a matter of public interest.
5. In view of these circumstances, I see no reason for any Petition to be forwarded to the Committee of Privileges or any other action to be taken.

Yours sincerely,

M.R. Masani

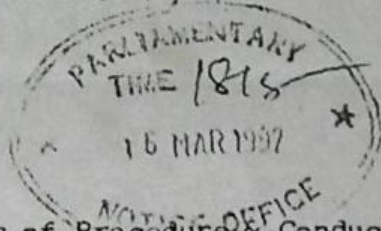


Mr. Sahni

March 16, 1992

The Speaker,
Lok Sabha,
New Delhi.

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Hon'ble Sir,

Under Rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha I would like to raise through your consent the following question involving a breach of privilege of a large number of Members of the House who were present in Lok Sabha on 29 February, 1992.

That in The Statesman Calcutta Edition dated 15 March, 1992 in the Column titled "As I see it" by Shri Minoo Nasani the following observation has been made about a section of the Members present in Lok Sabha on February 29, 1992:

"Imagine my horror, therefore, when I tried to listen on February 29 to the Finance Minister on TV and was faced instead by a mob of howling hooligans who tried to prevent the Finance Minister from speaking by raising once again the red herring of the alleged "leakage" to the World Bank. It was a disgraceful show of indiscipline and hooliganism on the part of the Communists and their allies, from which I hope citizens throughout the country learnt what kind of people some Members of Parliament are.

The Speaker, however, managed the situation very well and after about 15 or 20 minutes were wasted, order was restored and the Finance Minister was allowed to proceed. From then on the situation changed completely".

It is apparent that by the above observation the concerned author and the publisher, printer and Editor of The Statesman have committed a serious breach of privilege of a large section of Members belonging to the CPI(M) and other left parties and other allies belonging to National Front. Some remarks contained in the observation like "a mob of howling hooligans", "disgraceful show of indiscipline and hooliganism on the part of the Communists and their allies" and "the illegal purposes they have been serving in the name of 'Socialism' have caused immense damage to the honour and standing of a large number of Members of the House as also of the whole House itself. The above remarks also stand in the way of usual discharge of duties of a Member.

We would request you to kindly grant me leave to raise the above question of privilege in the House and refer it to the Committee of Privileges.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Encls : A zerox copy of the
concerned part of The Statesman,
Calcutta, 15 March 1992

Minoo Nasani
16/3/92
11/11/92