

Shri. S. V. Singh
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Privilege Motion against
Minoo Masani.

Dear Mr. Editor,

I am amused that Shri Roop Chand Pal, CPI(M) M.P. and a few leftist M.P.s have sought to move a motion of breach of privilege against Minoo Masani for using a very apt epithet "howling hooligans" against some of the irresponsible M.P.s who prevented Shri Manmohan Singh, the Finance Minister, from presenting the budget on Saturday, 29th February, 1992, for full 15 minutes and held our Lok Sabha to ransom till the Ring Master, Shri Shivraj Patil, the Speaker, tamed them.

If the proceedings of the first fifteen minutes of the opening Budget session are re-telecast, Shri Roop Chand Pal and his supporters can see for themselves whether Minoo Masani's epithet is apt, understatement or objectionable. What 'privilege' are they talking about? The privilege to hold the Lok Sabha to ransom and convert it into a fish market or village "Aakhada"?

Nobody among our millions of viewers could make out what these blessed M.P.s were speaking; they were just shouting at one another. We could not even make out what they were shouting about, as ten or twelve M.P.s were shouting at the top of their voice at the same time. Were they behaving like disciplined and dignified M.P.s or behaving like howling hooligans?

Can "speaking the truth" be a matter of breach of privilege in a country whose motto is "Satyameva Jayate"? Minoo Masani called only those M.P.s who held the Lok Sabha to ransom as "howling hooligans" and certainly not all M.P.s.

Yours sincerely,

S. S. Bankeshwar
(S.S. Bankeshwar)