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Unruly MPs

■ Sir: This refers to the news report that some members of Parliament have complained about Mr Minoo Masani's description of MPs as "howling hooligans."

There is a story that a renowned editor of a reputed English language daily of Bombay described members of the ruling party in Parliament of the first Republic of India as "khadi cap on head, nothing below it and the majestic vacuum is filled with

erroneous notions."

Members took umbrage at this and reported the matter to Pandit Nehru who, in his impish style, referred the matter to the Law Ministry. The wag adds that the Attorney General, after examining the facts, is reported to have opined that the truth is the best defence in a defamation suit. The matter, for obvious reasons, was dropped!

Not too long ago, even Vice President Dr S. D. Sharma was reduced to tears at the unruly behaviour of members of the Rajya Sabha. The incident before the presentation of the annual budget by the Finance Minister, which was witnessed over television by the nation, did not bring any credit to

members of the Opposition; the Speaker and the Finance Minister deserve praise for conducting themselves in a dignified manner.

If one takes into account the above, one would not consider the observation of Mr Masani, a distinguished parliamentarian in his own right, to be far off the mark. One expects Members of Parliament to be mature enough to take such observations in their stride.

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