Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Debates
OFFICIAL REPORT

Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers

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THE ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
[Part II-Proceedings other than Questions and Answers]
OFFICIAL REPORT

Twenty third day of the Eleventh Session of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Tuesday, the 7th March, 1961

The House met at Half Past Eight of the Clock

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
(See Part I)

PRIVILEGE MOTION

Re: Early Publication of Budget Speech for 1961-62
Privilege Motion  
re: Early Publication of  
Budget speech for 1961-62

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question of budget leakage. It is a question of a practice of openly giving a copy of the budget by the Government to the people.
Privilege Motion

7th March, 1961

re: Early Publication of Budget speech for 1961-62

Mr. Churchill: "May I ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been drawn to a notice of motion which stands on the paper and in the name of the other hon. Members on the subject of a Select Committee report to enquire into the circumstances of the disclosure of the budget information last week?"

Budget disclosure: Dalton's Case:

Though the leakage of the budget proposals may not constitute a breach of privilege of the House, the Parliament has ample power to enquire into the conduct of a Minister. It is with regard to budget leakage."
Mr. Atlee: "Is it not clear that there is now a prima facie case for enquiry and in view of the amount of rumours and of discussion in the papers, is it not desirable that a commission with full power to obtain evidence should be set up at once?"

Mr. Speaker: "Improper revelation of the budget proposals secretly, clandestinely and with ulterior motives" etc. etc.

Whether there is an intention or not and whether it comes under breach of privilege or not is the question. It is in the hands of others and not in the hands of the House.

Mr. Speaker: It is given to the press and certain constituted authorities.
Sir, as you rightly pointed out, the point is really very important viz., that before the budget is actually presented to this House, should it or should it not be given to the press in advance for immediate and correct publication of the budget. That is the point which was the subject-matter of discussion on several other occasions also. It is of course, usually an accepted practice and

*Sri Gopalrao Ekbote (High Court):* Mr. Speaker
previlege that no document can be released by the Government—and of course a most important document like the Budget—before it is presented to this House. That is the general convention and a privilege which the House is entitled to. But the point which you have suggested is important. It is not a question of privilege as has been rightly pointed out even by my friend from the opposition. The point is that it is a breach of confidence reposed by the Government in the Press. It is a breach of relationship which exists as a matter of convention, and I am one of those who would like to support this convention viz., that the documents which are released to the press should not have been in the Press before they are actually presented to the House. This convention must not only be respected by the Government, but it is...

Mr. Speaker: Were you doing it during your days?

Sri Gopalrao Ekbote: Yes, we were doing it and every other State does it and even the Centre, to my knowledge, does it. It is always given in a sealed cover with definite instructions that it should not be published before such and such an hour on such and such a date. It is the bounden obligation

Mr. Speaker. You were a Minister. So in your days, you were giving an advance copy?

Sri Gopalrao Ekbote: We used to give. Even with regard to the results of the examinations we used to give a copy in advance because the press had given an undertaking that it will not be released before the appointed hour. It is a matter of convention and mutual relationship which must be maintained by the Press and it a breach of confidence which is reposed in that particular Press. It has nothing to do with the Assembly. The only point which we should insist on Government and the Press concerned is that they should find out by sitting together as to how that leakage had occurred.

Mr. Speaker: Why should they repose more confidence in the Press before they present the budget in the House? Whether you did it or not is not the question.
Privilege Motion
re Early Publication of
Budget speech for 1961-62

7th March, 1961

Why should they trust the press, their reporters, printers and publishers?

Sri Gopala Rao Ekbote: The clear answer to this would be only this, that the press being the most important aspect of the whole democratic working of the State machinery, Budget copies were given. In the nature of things, before the budget is presented to the House it was brought to the notice of several other persons unconnected with this Assembly, not only the Cabinet but also the Finance Department and other departments. If you strictly adhere to this principle, there are so many breaches at that level altogether and as a part of that machinery which has to deal with this budget, the Press comes into the picture and it is for the press to keep up this morale, obligation and not to observe it in the breach, and if some press has done it, it is for the Government.

Mr. Speaker: What do you say in this case, whether the 'Andhra Patrika' acted correctly or not?

Sri Gopal Rao Ekbote: I do not know the reason for this early publication. It may be negligence on the part of the Press.

Mr. Speaker: It is admitted that they printed the budget before 3 P.M. At 3 P.M., they posted the copies of 'Andhra Patrika' in the aeroplane. It must have come here by 4.40 P.M. From 5 P.M., they were published. So whether the 'Andhra Patrika' was right in printing it at 2-30 P.M., or 3 P.M., and sending the copies here is the question.

Sri Gopalrao Ekbote: It is a clear breach of confidence which the Government resposed in that particular paper. When definite instructions were given not to publish the budget before 5 P.M., it is clearly a case of breach of confidence reposed by the Government. Now it is for the Government to see whether next year or this year any such news should be given in advance to that particular Paper or not. We should not however discourage the practice of giving a copy earlier. The Press also serves an essential duty in this democracy of simultaneously bringing this document to the notice of the public. Of course, this year it is not important as there are no fresh taxation proposals, but
this matter if left as it is next year may be repeated.
I would like to request the Government to take this
point of view very seriously and see that such papers
which do not deserve the confidence..

Mr. Speaker: The Presses have Teleprinters.
They can send the news immediately to the press. The
next day they will publish. Why should they be allowed
to publish in advance? That is the point.

Sri Gopalrao Ekbote: Why should we choose
this 4 P.M., as the time for presentation of the Budget?
Almost all the papers are published in the morning and
if it is published the next day, in between that, there
should not be enough time for the market to come

Mr. Speaker: That night they can print.

Sri Gopalrao Ekbote: Usually a practice
developed that it should be presented only in the evening
to avoid market fluctuations. If it is presented in the
morning, it gets before the market. Fluctuations can
take place the whole day. Therefore that practice
developed and in consonance with that practice, an
advance copy is given to the press so that it may
accurately appear in the Press. Wrong references or
incorrect publication will be a breach of privilege.
Therefore that convention has developed and as far as
I am concerned I may say that there is nothing wrong
in that practice or convention. But whoever violates
that convention, Government should be very serious in
treating that particular press. But I think those papers
who are loyally following this method should not be
allowed to suffer by depriving them of this convention,
which in my view, is a long-standing convention, not
only in this State but in several other States and in the
Centre

*Sri R. B. Ramakrishna Raju(Vadamalpet): Sir, it is
a very serious matter. No body, I am sure, can impute
any motive to the Government for what they have done.
The only question, as you put it, Sir, is whether this
convention or practice is correct or good in the interests
of the proper administration of the State. The point is,
Sir, Mr. Ekbote has been at great length stating that
this convention is good and that our efforts must be
to see that this secrecy is maintained by the Press.
What is our control over the Press, Sir? We no doubt
send sealed covers to them and ask them to publish only
at a particular time. But, if they do not do it, the
utmost that we can do is to see that that kind of publi­
cation is not given to the Press. How does it satisfy the
hon. members in this House? Now, we send sealed
cover. Suppose, some body in the Press office opens it;
and suppose the budget contains very serious tax pro­
posals and they leak out. Who is responsible for it?
Are we going to punish the Press for such a kind of
leakage? Now, in this Budget, Sir, I do not see there
is any difficulty at all because, there is no tax proposal;
and absolutely there is no trouble at all even if it is
published earlier. But that is not the point. At any
time the budget proposals may contain very serious
taxation proposals and if this convention should con­tin­ue and if proposals should be sent to the Press early,
what is the control over the Press? How does it satisfy
the hon. members here? We have absolutely no con­
trol on the Press. I, therefore, think, Sir, that it would
be a very good convention to see that the matter is not
sent to the Press before it is presented in the House. If,
as hon. Sri Ekbote says the whole day is to be wasted,
let the budget be presented at 11 O'clock.

Mr. Speaker: What does it matter? The public
will know the next day.

Sri R. B. Ramakrishana Raju: Yes, Sir. The
point here is that we ought to know it first before any
body else knows. If it is said that the Press also must
publish it simultaneously, all right, let it be presented at
11 O'clock in the House so that the press will publish
it in the evening, the same day. So, Sir, to take proce­
dings against the Press is absolutely out of question. We
are not concerned with it. Let the Government take
any action they like. We are not concerned with it.
We are only concerned with this point, viz., whether
the information can be given to any outside agency—
let it be the Press or any other agency—before it is
presented in the House. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that
it will be in the interests of good administration if you
give the ruling that they ought not to give it to any body else before it is given to the House.

*(1) Taxation proposals are important, so much so, taxation proposals should be kept secret until the latest news is made public by the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister should decide on taxation proposals just as a House of Commons Speaker could decide if a private member's bill was a breach of privilege.

(2) A breach of privilege is a breach of confidence. The Finance Minister is responsible for the latest news. The Finance Minister should decide on taxation proposals before discussing them with the House. The Finance Minister should decide on taxation proposals just as a House of Commons Speaker could decide if a private member's bill was a breach of privilege. The Finance Minister should decide on taxation proposals just as a House of Commons Speaker could decide if a private member's bill was a breach of privilege.
Privilege Motion  
7th March, 1961

re. Early Publication of Budget speech for 1961-62

Printing and publishing leakage should worry? Are safe steps taken?

Printing difficulties increased. Publishing managements are finding printing mistakes [,in situations of the press] the printing department, taxation proposals make printing and publishing hazardous. The publishing section of the Press is worried about the leakage of proof-reader and proof-copy sheets. The leakage should be prevented. The official release of the printing and publishing professions.

Printing and publishing are released Print since May 1961. Official release and publishing officially

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Privilege Motion
re: Early Publication of
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7th March, 1961

The breach of privilege.

The breach of privilege is explicitly mentioned in the motion. The motion also mentions the leakage of information and the early publication of the budget speech.

The motion refers to the breach of privilege, which includes the leakage of information and the early publication of the budget speech.

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My dear Sri Satyanadan,

(Chief Secretary to Madras Government—retired now, Sir)

As we did last year, through the Finance Secretary (1957 & 1958) I am sending my budget speech both in English and Telugu. The Telugu copies may be given to the representatives of the 'Andhra Patrika' and 'Andhra Prabha' who will come and meet you at the Secretariat. The English Copies may be given to the English Dailies and if needed, to the Tamil Dailies also. The representatives will meet you round about 11 O'clock on the 26th. I give the speech at 4 p.m. on that day, and they should be told not to publish before 5 p.m. on that date. The Press Representatives of Madras papers in Hyderabad are being told that their counterparts would contact you at 11 a.m. on the 26th. Hope you will be able to distribute them.

Thanking you."

This is the letter, Sir, addressed in the year 1958. Then, subsequently, in the year 1959 also a similar letter was addressed. I will read it:
To

Sri T. N. S. Raghavan, I. C. S.,

(Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras).

Dear Sir,

I am desired by the Finance Minister, Andhra Pradesh to send to you copies of budget speech for the year 1959—60 for distribution to the English, Telugu and Tamil Dailies of Madras (Two copies for each paper). I shall be sending 10 copies each of the Telugu and English versions by plane tomorrow, the 19th February. The speech will be delivered in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly at 4 p.m. on the 20th February, 1959 and the newspapers' representatives in Madras

Your Information Department is giving them automatically to the Press. You have nothing to do. According to convention they are giving it.

Sri K. Brahmamanda Reddy: The convention is followed every year, Sir. 

Your 4th...
I will come point by point, because I have to cover several aspects including this

the local representatives of newspapers at Madras are being requested to contact your office at about 11 a.m. on 20th February and take delivery of the copies. They may kindly be informed that the matter should not be published or otherwise used before 5 p.m. on 20th February.

Sir,

With reference to the point of order on the floor of the Council by Sri Raja Rao, about publication of budget proposals for 1960-61 in 'Andhra Patrika' dated 20th February we submit to you that no breach of privilege is involved due to the following reasons:

Copy of the budget speech is given every year to the newspapers some hours earlier to its presentation to
the Legislature so that newspapers may have enough time to prepare and be able to release to the public in time. This applies almost to every budget. Only technical formalities are observed not to release it before its presentation to the Legislature. The fact that advance copies are usually given to the newspapers even before they are presented to the Legislature shows that it is only a technical formality and that formality has been observed by us. This year a copy of the budget proposals was given to us on 20th morning at about 9 a.m. by a representative of the Information Department of Andhra Pradesh Government at Madras. It is mentioned on the title page of the copies that proposals should be presented to the Legislature on 20th. A news item that was published earlier said that the budget will be presented to the Assembly at 4 p.m. on the 20th. (That is true). The moment the Finance Minister presents it to either House, the budget becomes public and newspapers can release it any moment after that to the public. The present budget was presented by the Finance Minister to the Assembly at 4 p.m. on the 20th. The “Andhra Patrika” publishes a special Hyderabad Air Edition every day. This edition is sent by Airlines Plane which leaves Madras at 3 p.m. and reaches Hyderabad Air Port at 4-30 p.m. in the city of Hyderabad. Copies are distributed usually by about 5-30 p.m. in the city of Hyderabad. The issue of ‘Andhra Patrika’ containing budget proposals was sent in usual course by the same plane, which arrives in Hyderabad air port only at 4-30 p.m. i.e. half an hour after the budget has been presented to the Assembly. Our paper containing budget proposals was available to the public only after the Finance Minister has presented the same to the Legislative Assembly and this edition is not distributed any where else except Hyderabad. Other papers in their respective places of publication released the proposals there in the same evening. This does not involve any breach of privilege or understanding. We believe we have clarified the position.

Yours faithfully.”

అప్పుడు ప్రస్తుత నాటికి ఎందుకు ఎందుకంటే అక్షరాలు ఏమిటి—మాకే....
Privilege Motion

re Early Publication of
Budget speech for 1961-62

7th March, 1961

I am reading an exact case on all fours with the present one, from the Journal of Parliamentary Information - Volume I - published by Lok Sabha at pages 186-187. On the 11th March, 1955, Moulvi Abdul Gamdar asked for leave to move a motion of privilege regarding leakage of the budget. It is a very short one, Sir. It is very important. He said that the Finance Minister made available to the press copies of the budget proposals before their presentation to the House. He also said that it was not necessary that the leakage in actual words should take place. The fact of supplying copies of the budget before its presentation to the House in itself constituted a leakage since it could well have led to disclosure of the budget proposals. The Speaker gave his ruling as observed hereunder:

"It is an old convention dating back, I believe, to 1937, to give advance copies to the press and this concession to the press has not so far been abused. The same practice holds good in other States and even at the Centre. The Press is as important a part of the democratic organization as any Legislative Chamber. It is always taken into confidence in important matters. We are all engaged in a common endeavour which is the service of the common man. Leakage is that which leaks out. The Member has not shown that any leakage has taken place which might have had the effect of obstructing the financial markets of the State. I therefore hold that there has been no leakage as such and accordingly refuse to give consent to the moving of this motion. I would however suggest that the Government may examine its present practice in this connection."

మేము ముఖం: ఆసన్ రాష్ట్రం రాచార్య ప్రశ్నానికి ఇంత సమయము? Press కు ఆసన్ రాశాలను సాధారణ విధము, ఆసన్ రాశాల ప్రతి ప్రత్యేక అధీనం వేయాలను?
Select Committee reports publish Press according Members Pressing Press leakage chances to a chance pulling

POINT OF INFORMATION

Ref: Letter of resignation from
Sri S. B. P. Pattabhirama Rao, Minister for Education

Unfortunately High Court have made adverse remarks leave for appeal to the Court until his resignation is accepted, he is a Minister. Accepting the resignation of the Chief Minister with his appeal the Administration Administration
CONDOLENCE MOTION

Re: Demise of Sri G. B. Pant, Union Home Minister

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following resolution:

"This House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri G. B. Pant, Union Home Minister and conveys its deep sense of sympathy to the members of the bereaved family."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved.

Sri D. Sanjivayya: I beg to move the following resolution:

"This House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri G. B. Pant, Union Home Minister and conveys its deep sense of sympathy to the members of the bereaved family."
Condolence Motion
re: Demise of Sri G. B. Pant,
Union Home Minister
Condolence Motion
7th March, 1961
re: Demise of Sri G. B. Pant,
Union Home Minister

*Sir, in the shadow of a great mountain of a man, we grieve. The mountain pierces the sky. Its peak is crowned with a morning star. It is the peak of a man who represented the people of this country. He was the voice of the people. His life was a symbol of the unity of India. His death is a loss to the country.

*Sir, today we stand on the threshold of the new century. The country is in the midst of a crisis. The people are looking for leadership. The leader must be strong, wise, and honest. He must be able to lead the country to victory. The country needs a leader who can unite the people.

*Sir, the country is in a state of uncertainty. The future is uncertain. The country needs a leader who can lead the country to victory. The leader must be strong, wise, and honest. He must be able to lead the country to victory.

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The question is:

That this House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri G. B. Pant, Union Home Minister and conveys its deep sense of sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

The motion was adopted nem con.

(The House then adjourned till 8-30 a.m. on 8-3-1961)