

28/1/28

ANOTHER S.S.P M.P SUSPENDED

Patriot

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Our Special Correspondent

LOHIA-SOCIALIST member Mani Ram Bagri was suspended from the Lok Sabha for the rest of the current session on Wednesday following his refusal to withdraw certain remarks about the House.



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His expulsion follows a similar action against the Socialist leader Dr Lohia and the ordering out of the House on Tuesday of another Lohia-Socialist, Mr Krishan Patnaik.

Shortly after a call-attention motion on the Republican Party's agitation was tabled and Home Minister Nanda had made a statement on it, Mr Bagri asked to be allowed to put a question.

He started on what looked like a long preamble to the point he wanted to make and the Speaker had to interrupt him and ask him several times to put the question straight.

Mr Bagri did not seem to pay heed and the "preamble" went on and on, leading to objections from the Congress benches. When the Speaker again insisted that Mr Bagri should put his question, the member angrily referred to the Lok Sabha as a Moghul court.

QUIBBLING

The Speaker demanded that he should withdraw the statement. As Mr Bagri, however, quibbled ("I only said that the Lok Sabha was not a Moghul court") the Speaker retorted "This is not a machhli bazar (fish market) either." He did not want it to be made one either. Unless Mr Bagri withdrew his remarks he would have to take action, he said.

Another Lohia-Socialist member, Mr Ramsevak Yadav, supported Mr Bagri's protestations and asked why the statement should be withdrawn. Because, the Speaker said, it was a reflection on both the Houses and the Speaker. He warned Mr Bagri that unless he withdrew his remarks he would have to go out of the House.

Other Lohia-Socialist members Mr Madhu Limaye and Mr Patnaik, also rose to their feet. Mr Bagri then sought to amend his earlier remarks by suggesting that he should be allowed to describe the Lok Sabha as "a people's durbar."

The Speaker warned that the authority of the chair was being flouted.

BIG VOTE

A motion for the suspension of Mr Bagri was moved and, as on the occasion of Dr Lohia's expulsion, the voice vote was in favour. Mr Limaye demanded that the rule under which Mr Bagri was asked to withdraw his statement should be cited and Mr Yadav insisted that he had opposed the voice vote and that he wanted a division.

The result of the division was overwhelmingly in favour of Mr Bagri's expulsion—220 in favour to seven against. 30 10

Speaker Hukam Singh then asked Mr Bagri to leave the House and said that unless he went out he would have to ask the Marshal to remove him. There were loud demands of "Get out" from the Congress benches.

As the Marshal approached Mr Bagri, SSP leader Surendra Nath Dwivedy got up to ask Mr Bagri to go out.

Mr Bagri then left the House followed by the Marshal.

The Speaker thanked Mr Dwivedy for his help and commended his example to other party leaders. Mr Kapur Singh (Swt.) was heard to remark, "This is a day of martyrs". Mr H. V. Kamath qualified, "Phoney martyrs". ...

Formally, Mr Bagri and other Lohia-Socialists are members of the SSP, though they were functioning, as on Monday on the occasion of Dr Lohia's suspension and on Tuesday on the occasion of Mr Patnaik's expulsion, like a group. 37 B