

11.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS**Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Reports***[English]*

SHRI ABDUL REHMAN ANTULAY (Kulaba) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals :

- (1) Ninth Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry to Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- (2) Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.
- (3) Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Fertilisers.

11.05¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth Reports*[English]*

SHRI NURUL ISLAM (Dhubri) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce :

- (1) Twenty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Commerce (Department of Commerce) ;
- (2) Twenty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Commerce (Department of Supply); and
- (3) Thirtieth Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Textiles.

11.05½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

Twenty-Second Report*[English]*

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Twenty-second Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on the Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministries of Mines, Steel and Industry.

11.05¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Reports*[English]*

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, I beg to lay the Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (1997-98) of Departments of Science and Technology and Ocean Development respectively.

11.06 hrs.

RE: CHARGES FRAMED BY CBI AGAINST A MINISTER
AND OTHERS*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I have a number of notices from hon. Members including the Leader of the Opposition on the situation arising out of the decision of the CBI to file charge-sheets and to start criminal proceedings against a Union Minister and the Chief Minister of Bihar. I will allow hon. Members to raise the issue. But may I remind the House of Rule 31 of the Manual of Business and Procedure of the House. I want to quote that here :

"Reference by Members to the Chief Minister of a State is not in order as he is not responsible to the House."

There have been a number of rulings by different Speakers. Please keep that in mind. But since we have here the case of a Union Minister also, I would request hon. Members to be very careful. Restrain yourself and go to the issue and not refer to the people in high offices, particularly the Head of the Government of a State. That is all I want to say.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on such a serious issue of public importance.

Undoubtedly, it is a matter of public importance. It is a serious matter for us because an hon. Member of this August House is alleged to be involved in this case. At present, he is a Minister of State.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the information gathered from newsitems published in various newspapers, CBI has taken a decision to prosecute him for his alleged involvement in the much publicized fodder scam of Bihar. Since he is a Minister at present, the CBI has to seek permission of the hon. President before taking any action against him. There are some officers of the Central Government also who are alleged to be involved in the scam and are working in that State and permission of the Central Government will also be required to prosecute them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the Intention of the Government in this regard. The Hon. Prime Minister has assumed the office recently. His utterances inside and outside the House, have raised hopes that no such scam will be swept under the carpet. Law will take its own course and nobody will be allowed to flout law for political connections or other reasons.

In this connection, I would not like to quote the election manifesto of the United Front. This incident is a touchstone and whole country is awaiting the Government's decision on it. The fodder scam is of Rs. 1000 crore and the CBI wants to file chargesheet against 46 persons and investigation is going on against the same number of persons.

I do not want to mention the name of any Chief Minister, though during the discussion on Confidence Motion in this House, Sharad Yadavji had mentioned the name of the Chief Minister involved in this scam. The Government should have a clear-cut policy in the matters of giving permission to CBI for prosecution in such corruption cases. There should not be any dilemma in such cases. Instead I would go ahead to say that the alleged person should himself resign from the post before the CBI takes permission to prosecute him in the Court. He should say that he will not hold any office until he is acquitted by the Court. Such decisions can set ideals for others and prove a good step towards value based policies. But what we are hearing from Patna and here in Delhi reveals that this issue is being taken to streets.

The judicial matters cannot be resolved on roads. The party's internal matters should be resolved within the party. I do not want to interfere in internal matters of any political party, so far as my party is concerned, we have set an example in this regard. The leader of opposition in Bihar legislative Assembly needed not to resign but on the advice of leaders of the party he resigned from the post. I have already mentioned the conduct of Shri Advani.

It is a testing time for all the political parties and politicians. We all are committed to root out corruption. Our democratic system will be in danger, if the country does not get rid of this menace of corruption. Development of country is already adversely affected due to it. I would like to know the attitude and intention of this Government in the matter of giving permission to CBI for prosecution of the Minister of State, Shri Verma and Central Government Officers allegedly involved in this scam.

Secondly, I would like to mention political ramifications of this incident and due attention should be paid towards it. It is not merely a legal matter. We have to see as to what is the demand of democracy and what is the propriety of politics. It is correct that a person cannot be called guilty until his guilt is proved and he is punished for that. However, it is a narrow thinking. The question, today, is of the conduct of the politicians. The issue of chargesheet is not a new thing. Politicians had been chargesheeted earlier also. Antuleji is also present here. He had resigned from Chief Ministership in such a case. Advaniji was not holding any post but he resigned from the membership of Lok Sabha and did not contest any election till he was acquitted by the court.

The members of previous Lok Sabha, who were holding the charges of various Ministries had resigned when their names appeared in Hawala case. They did not hold out threats to take the matter on roads and no hue and cry was made on it but now it is being done.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I demand that instructions should be given to the Government for providing the required information to CBI and obtain permission from the hon'ble President for prosecution of guilty persons. As I have mentioned earlier also, it is a testing time for all of us and I hope that this House will be able to withstand this test.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, when the former Prime Minister was making his speech before his exit he stated in the House that he took credit that during his ten month Premiership, there was not a single case and his Government was transparent. Some of us cheered it and those who could not kept silent.

Today, something has exploded and it is not a matter of any party at all. Parties can sort out their problems. It is a matter of the entire polity and if we think of the dimension of the problem, we will all feel the kind of responsibility that devolves on us. The amount involved is about Rs. 950 crore. The list of people who are proposed to be charge-sheeted include high officials and members of the all-India Services posted in a State. They belong to all-India Services that are under the Central Government and the political executives are also involved at the Centre and at the State.

Sir, I do believe that, in terms of the United Front's Common Minimum Programme, it is urgently necessary that the Prime Minister should come here and state the next step for the Government and the CBI in the interest of the morality of the country.

It is not a party question at all. The parties have to look after themselves. From the BJP, he has claimed that their President remains a President and he has been exonerated by the High Court. Of course, there are State Benches which do not speak highly that although there is an intention to go to the Supreme Court, some of them are trying to stall that appeal. The party has to look after this. In this case, the party has to look after the quality of morality that it wants to demonstrate before the whole country. But for the whole country and the whole polity and the governance of the country, it is urgently necessary that the Government comes out with a statement about the firm steps they are going to take in terms of further processing by the CBI as well as the Government itself.

The Prime Minister is not here. The Leader of the House is there. I request that he should come out with a statement before the House. This matter, I believe, is the concern of the entire House and of the entire people. For once, such a huge list of bureaucracy has come out in the Press. And the warning to the bureaucracy should also go so that the bureaucracy in future is warned adequately.

MR. SPEAKER : I will just go by the notices received. I will call those who have given notice first. But later on, I will allow others also to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, CBI has publicly announced its decision of filing charge-sheet against a central Minister, some officials of the Central Government, Chief Minister of a State, many other officials and some other people and the Director of CBI has said that he would take initiative in seeking permission from competent authorities to file chargesheet and launch criminal proceedings. I don't know whether the letter seeking permission, has reached the competent authorities or not. The Government must be aware of this, We want to know this and the House also would like to know this and the country would also like to know this. This question does not relate to some important persons who are involved in this scam and against whom the chargesheet is going to be filed. The issue is whether there would be one norm or different norms would be followed for public life in this country. One norm was mentioned by the leader of the opposition Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the leader of CPI (M) Shri Nirmal Kanti Chattarjee. Under one norm we have seen that one by one several ministers lost power. The leaders of many new parties have resigned from their posts. Shri Advani ji, Shri Sharad Yadav have also resigned from the membership of the House and many other members have also resigned.

Democracy rests on democratic values. In the absence of these values democracy cannot be run. It can be said that nowhere it is written that if there is chargesheet against any one then he has to resign as a Chief Minister or Minister where is it written? Our forefathers and the constitution makers never imagined that any chargesheet would have to be filed against any Minister or Chief Minister under this scam or any other matter. Today, after fifty years of independence it has happened. We are going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Independence....(interruptions). You can say your point, I have no objection. If there is competition of speaking loudly then it is some other thing.(Interruptions) you will get chance to speak. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not sit for these people and you see only these M.Ps in the whole country are sitting here....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : They are also in the competition for the post of Chief Minister....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down
.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give opportunity to all of you and then you can reply.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You can reply later on. Please listen. You will be given opportunity.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : All of you the right to tell about your point of view. Here in the House discussion is going on and discussion should be held on this issue also. There is no way out in democracy. If a charge is imposed on anyone

or any investigating agency find it proper to file a charge-sheet against anyone on the basis of any evidence, irrespective of his position, then he has to prove himself innocent according to the Democratic process in the court. He cannot remain in power. It cannot be solved outside court because no one would be ready for it. Other people will also try to save democracy. It will serve no purpose, rather, it will malice the public life.

I, therefore, would like to put two points, through you and would like to have the Government's reaction on it. Would there be same norms for the politicians in public life or there will be one norm for Shri Sharad Pawar, Madhav Rao Scindia, V.C. Shukla, Lal Krishna Advani and the other norm for the other people. I would like to quote an important sentence in this House. Some one has told that no charge sheet has been filed against Mr. Bommai, only his name was mentioned in the Diary and it was reported in newspapers and after him, the person who inherited the seat of President of Janta Dal told that Hawala has given him this post of the president. Remembering that statement we would like to say that what will happen in the public life and when you face this situation, you say that we will deal with this issue in the street. It is said that we will see. To whom you will see? They are tackling this issue on the roads. We people and hundreds of people from Samata Party were severely Lathi Charged on the roads in Patna. People of this country are ready to face Lathis or bullets but they will not run away from the struggle to protect Democracy in the country.

Many times it has happened that people in power thought the country or the State cannot run without them but people have made them feel that they were wrong. We don't want to go in detail the people will give their verdict but for the purity in public life whether one norm will be followed or dual norms will be followed and if a person declines even after chargesheet has been filed, against him and he says that he would file from jail and run the Govt. Then will it not be the responsibility of the Central Government? In this situation what action would be taken by the Central Government because it cannot remain a dumb spectator because all these matters relate to the party from which head of the Govt. comes. Most of the people belonging to his party are involved. In such a condition Government should not be a silent spectator. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is the leader of the House. In Patna, he said in a statement that it has adversely affected the image of the party.

Fortunately, the Prime Minister has assured in the House. He has already made a statement that such things would not be given protection. This is a matter concerning a Member of Cabinet. How much time would be taken in completing the formalities. Whether the documents have been sent to the President or not. What action is being taken. He should clear his position in this regard because he has double responsibility, because the person concerned is also a member of his party. Now even the representatives of the left parties have issued a statement. We have no intention to level charges against any person. Several leaders of United Front and Leaders of other parties have been giving statements. We are Members of opposition to protect a particular person, that too in the year when we are celebrating 50th Anniversary of our Independence that would be the black day in the history of Democracy. If they think they are very powerful and want to assert thereof publicly then let the matters be decided....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We are ready.

MR. SPEAKER : Have patience, please.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If you have given the permission to raise this matter in the House, then let the matters be decided here....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : I would conclude after making my last point. It is being submitted in the House that if a chargesheet is filed and prosecution is launched that does not prove someone guilty. From legal viewpoint correct. But is, after filing of chargesheet says that he is not guilty and he will continue to run the Government even now, then, as per the said norm, all undertrial prisoners should be set from the prisons until their cases are decided in the Supreme Court they are granted bail. Since Constitution of India guarantees that all are equal as far as implementation of law is concerned, it is a matter where democratic values and public life is at stake. You are the guardian of law as well custodian of this August House. You have granted permission for discussion on this topic since it is extra ordinary situation. While thanking for the same. I hope that while taking a decision in this regard you would keep the basic spirit of Constitution in view, which would be touch stone for public life in future.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Atal ji and Shri Nitish ji have already expressed their views. Although the names of Janata Dal may change but the senior members of the party have remained the same. The leaders of Independence Movement of 1942 were our forefathers. Atal ji has recalled the ideals of his party if I start recalling ideals of my party it would take much time.

When Emergency was imposed in the country, the tenure of Lok Sabha had been increased to six years. Late Shri Madhu Limaye and an ordinary person like me who was present here at that time also had told Mrs. Gandhi that she had no right to increase the fixed tenure of Lok Sabha from five to six years. Further, I would like quote one more example. In Hawala Scandal, our party's name was mentioned. The names of many persons were excluded my name. Only a single person had, made such a submission, when even no chargesheet had been filed against him. Against my name, the amount of three lakh had been mentioned and not an amount of five lakh. Some Jain had come to me along with Chiman Bhai with the mentioned amount. I do not recognise the person. I am the kind of person who would mention the same things not only in the Courts here but also in the court of Almighty God. No one else had admitted these things, Advani ji also did not admit it. I was the only person from Janata Dal....(Interruptions) Shri Rajesh Pilot had admitted it. We both have passed through the same agony in life one tribal leader had admitted Rs. 50,000....(Interruptions).

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Because he had received the amount(interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not talk among yourselves.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The debate which is going on corruption.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : What are you talking about.....(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can not fight here. Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to talk among yourself please go out.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I respect Shri Advani for his faith and devotion to his ideals. He was the first person who had resigned from his post. I do not agree with his thinking but there is no difference of mind. Hawala Scandal has become a topic of discussion throughout the country and it is a good trend. It is a very big disease in the country. It should be cured. This issue should be debated in toto. It is regretted that the matter is discussed in parts only. A person targeted and debate is undertaken regarding him only. That should also be done. I feel the debate should be comprehensive. If the matter is not discussed comprehensively then it is like attacking small mosquitoes through finit without cleaning the drain. We should take such steps also for quick remedy. But, we should discuss and enquire in depth on this issue. There should be a session of 4 to 5 days in the House to have a thread-bare discussion as to how can we get rid of this? It is an absolute necessity. In Hawala case Advani ji and thereafter we have also stated that if I had not been the leader of the House, I would have never resigned from my membership of Lok Sabha. The people of constituency as to what sort of person I am? But the people of this country do not know about me Nitish ji was saying that I have told everything. I would like to say that in democracy the will of people is supreme. After that when this issue came before the party then nobody raised that matter. Our Chairman, Honourable S.R. Bommai is not only person who have stated. He had told that he would also not sit in that meeting. Think over it and about my resignation he told me that I have not done a right thing by giving resignation first. And when you have given it then it is my moral responsibility to see that the image of the party is not spoilt. This was the meeting of the National Committee and in our P.S.P. supreme committee there was no Chairman inspite of having Chairman. He left all the people and then told all the people that he did not want to remain on that post. Nobody exerted any force the resignation was tendered to set an example. I want to say that he should have detailed discussion on this issue. There should must be a complete discussion on corruption. Legislature, Executive and Judiciary are running the system of this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Judiciary, Executive and Legislature are running this country for the last 50 years. Without their connivance, the public property of this country can not be looted. I want to request you that a commission should be constituted. There were some people among us, who when died did not have even resources sufficient enough for performing their last rites. You can ask your former President that there was no money to sent the dead bodies to their families. While discussing corruption should not always talk about bad things while relegating the honest person to the background. We should discuss about honesty and corruption both.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, I want to request you that a special session may be concerned. Instead of enquiry commission a survey commission may be constituted commission may be set up to enquire into the movable property instered of immovable property acquired by these three wings and then lay a report in this House. I do not say that their undeclared property can not be seized. Do not conduct any enquiry, only enquire about the number of houses and Form-Houses owned by them. Conduct enquiry about the property which is in their name not in their wives name. Conduct enquiry about officers, Judges, Legislatives, M.Ps, M.L.A and place the enquiry report in the House. Seven days session may be concerned. I have got the signatures of a number of M.Ps in this regard and I am sending them to you. These will be no solution of corruption prevailing in the country by treating this subject on peace meal basis. Here we several every thing each there, we are exposed but there are many people, who are not being exposed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you want to remove corruption then you should discuss this problem giving equal treatment to all and seven days session may be concerned. This is the biggest ill plaguing the country like cancer. This is taking our country towards decline. I agree with what the former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had said. I agree that out of 15 percents funds allocated for tribes, only 5% amount percolates to these poor people. Who are the people responsible for this? This aspect must be discussed and an enquiry be conducted into it. We all talk about one-another. We will talk about Atalji and Atalji will say about us. We all are accountable. We have to go to the people after every 5 years, no punishment more than this can be given to us. If the incredibility of the political life India is at stake then there will be danger to democacy but its credibility is not so weak. I can say so with confidence. Shri Antulay had to remain away from politics for 14 years which blacked his political life. Mr. Speaker, Sir, public life cannot be built so easily. A sapling becomes a tree after facing great hardships but that can be cut down in five minutes. That is why. we should discuss it carefully. I don't say that there should not be any discussion on corruption. In regard to the questions raised by Shri Atalji, I want to tell the Government that C.B.I has Informed us that they would file charge-sheet against them on Sunday, I don't know whether permission has been sought or not. Only the Government can tell this but the C.B.I has not descended from the moon nor it has come from America from this belongs to the country only.

All are sitting in this House and this House has fought so much against corruption. Here, Shri Chander Shekher ji

is sitting, his name has become popular for raising corruption. I am here since the time of Dada. We could not solve the issues raised in this House. These issues should must be solved. On 24th C.B.I had said that there are no concrete evidence of it. Shri Joginder Singh who is the head of C.B.I. stated in the Press conference held In Calcutta on 15th that it would take time. This is his right and I cannot have any objection in this regard. I also say the same thing.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I don't want to involved myself into the merits and demerits of this incident but I want to say that there is a caste system in this country.

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Munghyer) : Sharad ji, why do you want to bring in caste system in this case....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Whether you say it a merit of India or demerit of India but caste system is the real system of here and all other are fake. When the people who have gone through this agony and suffering speak they are dubbed as a casteiests. For thousands of years they have been toiling in the fields. But who like this? We also want to excel in every field. We also want to make a history. We are also human beings but is there any mention about is in the history. I want to say that it is a fact but in this country everybody says they should not talk of casteism but allow them to indulge in casteism. It the casteism is bad then why don't they take steps to break this system? Shall we spent our entire life cows grazing. I personally feel that we want to get rid of this. If the caste system is broken then we will be benefitted out of it. If a relationship develops between me and Atal ji then it will be in our interest and not in his interest....(*Interruptions*) But, what is the difference between me and him. Why was the House deliberate upon it that this castiest system be done away with. We are unanimous in a sense that this is a malaise....(*Interruptions*) Everybody is victim of this(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Haridwar) : Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to tell Shri Sharadji that first he should extend his hand of friendship towards us and talk to us before talking to Shri Atalji. I belong to Scheduled Caste Community and I am ready to develop relationship with him.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I agree with his views that there is no uniformity in respect of the upper casts with the most upper castes amongst the backward communities. You are right in this regard. We will also think twice before developing relationship with you. You are rightly saying so.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : You have also become manuvadi.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : In however is manuwadi he becomes the victims of caste-system.....(*Interruptions*)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You have raised the question of history, where is your name? Shri Krishna was Chandravanshi Yadav. He was a great personality Indian of history, tradition and culture. Only their names figures in the culture and tradition of this country. Who were Maharsi VAlmiki, the writer of Ramayana and Vedvyas, the writer of Mahabharat? They were not Brahmins. The writers of

Upnishads and Vedas and number of great of sages were not Brahmins. If you go through the education and the report of Adam only then you will come to know who did what with this country. Your name is written in golden letters in the history. You have to learn from it and you must know the history.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I have learn your lessons.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Then learn it.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have heard the words of Shri Joshiji.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is beyond the jurisdiction of the subject.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sharadji, please confine to the issue.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a full debate.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please, I am conducting the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Hon. Speaker, Sir Shri Joshi had rightly said to which I agree. But the reality is that out of total 52% of people working against executive and burecratic posts this in country. Only 2% belong to backward class. Do not forget this reality. 70% of people engaged in judiciary of this country belong to upper caste who always consider manual work a crime. We will continue to fight for our rights. We will not stop.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please, let me handle it. You are standing up again and again. What is this?

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : Have they any share in corruption?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Mandal, you have stood ten time today.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Mandal, listen to me. You cannot misbehave like this. You have stood ten times today. This is not the way to behave in the House. Please behave yourself. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I feel that they are feeling pained because of my words. I am concluding my speech by saying that our struggle will continue,

it will not stop. We will keep our struggle alive so far as we are alive. If at all it is possible then we will root out the caste-system before our death. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to reply to Shri Ataiji and Nitish ji that our party is directly concerned with this and that's why we are more worried. I want to know form the Government that only announcement has been made so far. This House is witness of the fact that before this announcement, hardly anyday had passed without discussing the fodder scam of Bihar in this House. We have raised in this House matters regarding scams involving 55 thousands crores of rupees and they have gone into oblivion but no body bothers about it now-a-days. Neither treasury benches nor the opposition raised those matters. We have raised various scam such as security scam, Telephone Scam, Gold Star Scam and Urea Scam and many more such scams. Now the question is of Government ruling over it. Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Govt. must give its rulings (Interruptions) Please listen to me. Justice and sense of propriety should not be scuttled. The Government have the information. It is almighty. This announcement has been made on Sunday. In this the court had directed that it would not go to press directly. It was the directive of the court that not a single document will be sent. Shri Atalji has access to that document in which it is stated that Shri Laloo Yadav is an accused. He has sent it to the Prime Minister on 24th November through a letter. How come secrecy and impartiality of investigating agency reached in Shri Atalji's hand? If it happens then an enquiry be conducted to find out the sources through which those documents reached in his hands? The court was of the opinion that this para should have not been made public. You must enquire into it properly. How all these things became public? Chargesheet is yet to be filed but you have identified the culprit and punished him. Real punishment is given by the people but you have already announced it. Nobody is agitating there. Today we are having our Government in Bihar but nobody has come on roads there. I appeal to the Govt. to explain the situation. We are totally unaware of the existing situation. We are demanding the same thing from the Govt., which you are demanding that they should explain all these things. With these words I conclude my speech. Today corruption is discussed in a phased manner....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will think over it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : If corruption is rooted out under your guidance then it will be a great thing.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a good suggestion. I will think over it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Hon. Speaker, Sir the reality is this that we are ashamed of speaking now. Many a time this matter has been raised in this House and we close these matters very lightly. I am telling you with a heavy heart that we are ashamed of discussing such things. We

are elected to this House to deal with the problems of poverty, removal of unemployment but most of the time we indulge ourselves in discussing the issue that corruption has increased, so and so is involved in corruption and he has done this and so on. It is unfortunate for us and at least for the younger generation that today. This issue is being discussed in Parliament. This House has seen such great personalities who never allowed such a talk to take place in House. S/Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Nitish Kumar and Sharad Yadav have spoken before me. I was judging their feelings were same but those were expressed in different way while associating myself with the feelings of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee I can say that our dignity has lowered to such an extent that if we go public in this dress, people abuse us in their hearts. A day will come when they will come on the roads and hurl abuses on us. The time has come to think above the party lines. Today, it is the question of the conventions and traditions of the country. This country has certain traditions and conventions. We go to foreign countries and tell them that such and conventions exist in India. When reports of scams worth crores of rupees used to pour in from Philippines, people used to refer to India and claim that in democratic country like India no such scams were reported. We had established certain traditional values of India in the world. Today, we are not following even those values. We are leaving behind this lesson for coming generation. I do not want to add more. I have been saying since long that use should root out corruption from our country. The people particulars those holding high offices should prove this by setting up example before the people of this country. We should not let it grow. If we start arguing among ourselves then how can we do away with it?

Today, Shri Nitishji was rightly saying about the difference between a common man and a leader. If they talk of justice in the court, the common people will also depend on court. Then, what for we are here? Our Court is the public perception. Our Court is the Public. The life of a political person is involved in realising the condition of people and understanding the views of people.

12.00 hrs.

There is no need of clearance of the Court. The Court can prove anyone honest. But if people think that a person is dishonest, then he can never become honest. This has been the tradition of the country.

I am making submission to you. Today, I am on fast. I have not eaten anything since morning. Farmers are sitting at Rajghat. We don't know the exact number of people present there may be hundred or two hundred. Discussion has been going on in the villages as to which direction the country is moving. The day before yesterday, Mahapanchayat of Farmers was held the only option left before us was to resort to fast at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhiji and express our concern over the problems of country. If the people holding high posts will not take any decision, the general public could only express their concern. But you must remember one thing that we can forget, but people will not forget. People will come on the roads

and do justice and they will not let the prestige of the country go down. It is my perception about the people. On this Occasion, everyone has expressed his view, I think, a message should go down to whole country by rising above party lines, that this House expresses its serious concern over this development. There is degradation moral values of value-based politics and the standard of our institutions is also declining. Shri Sharad has rightly said that we are proud of the institutions, of this country and these institutions, have upheld the glory of this country. Now these institutions are growing weaker. The Hon'ble Prime Minister is present here. He had said in his statement on the first day and also said here that if the institution of this country become weak, it would be difficult to strengthen the democracy in this country. These Institutions have been our foundation. Today, the level of these institutions is declining. The Government should pay attention towards the ways to strengthen these institutions especially those institutions which are under the control of the Government. What would be the fact of these institutions? The feeling expressed by Shri Sharad was correct. While intervening Shri Atal ji said that the day C.B.I starts investigation, newspapers are full of the news. During when we were Ministers, the C.B.I also used to conduct investigations. If Sharadji thanks that the C.B.I has taken a wrong decision, then you, being the elected executive, should decide whether the C.B.I. is acting in the right direction or not. You must gather courage and if you fail to do so and even do not perform the role of the executive and let the institutions became weaker, then the country will also become weak. Investigations have been done in many cases but the Government has adopted the same attitude. I don't want mention them. The Government had given its decision in such cases in 1952 and 1957. Investigations have been done in the fast and decision have been taken in the the interest of the country. But if you fail to take any decision, it will not only defame the executive but the institutions of the country as well. The problem arose when institutions started taking decision because the Executive was not taking decisions. When the decision was by the Executive, every institution started acting on its own way. Today we talk of judicial activism. The Judiciary became active when the executive failed and when it did not give any direction to the country. As a result, other institutions marched forward. I, therefore, urge upon the whole House that a message should go from this House down to the country and abroad big rising above party lines that the political parties of this country follow certain principles. Here, all are affiliated to their individual parties but for the country, all are equal. I may belong to the Congress Party, Atal ji to the B.J.P and Sharad ji to Janta Dal. Our ideologies may differ but we should involve to common ideology in the interest of our country. For this, I have prepared a resolution which I am going to read out before you. If the Members of the House agree then they can pass it. If they don't then it in their will. I can only say:

[English]

"We, all Members of this House, irrespective of political affiliation and political party, show deep concern on the devaluation of value-based politics in the country

and visible deterioration in the institutions, in the Government. We appeal to all to keep up the tradition set up by freedom fighters and elderly statesmen of this country in the past. If everybody approves, this message must go to the nation(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : You should speak on the matter which is being discussed.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Honourable Speaker had said in the beginning that level of the debate of today should be such that it reflected the concern of the country (Interruptions). When the Chief Minister of a state said that even if he went to jail, he won't resign. In my reaction to this statement at NOIDA, I had said that it was a great setback for our democracy and such thing should not happen in a democracy.

I have told this. But today we have to encourage value based politics. Therefore my suggestion should be accepted. I agree with the leader of the opposition Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and hon'ble Prime Minister. This point of concern should be discussed all over the country so as to apprise the whole country of the matter. Thank you very much.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir, the whole country is very much concerned about the same problem which is the concern of the House. Today the whole country is looking with expectation towards this House. First of all I would like to say that the points raised by the leader of the opposition party, leaders of CPI associated with our United Front Government, are very big and of serious nature. Hon'ble Prime Minister of our country is present here. Traditionally everyone can speak here but to say that we will ruin the centre is not good. If such points are raised by anyone then the Prime Minister, who is present here along with leader of opposition and top leaders of the country. I think he would also be concerned over it.....(Interruptions).

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, incorrect statement should not given in the House(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not named anyone,(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are talking of ruining the Government(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not named anyone. I have only expressed my concern that I have expressed my concern for the Prime Minister of the country, for the leader of the opposition and for all the leaders present here in this House that if the Central Government is going to face such setback then Hindustan will not survive. The way it has been said today that the centre will be ruined and if someone among us say like this and leave the House then it is certain that the state of Bihar is going to be ruined.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir I want to raise only two questions. At present the matter regarding Shri Chandradev Prasad Verma, who is a minister in United Front is not re-

sponsible for this because when this matter came in light he was minister in that state. If he was a minister in the cabinet of that state then this matter is related to the state and if today he is in our cabinet then this responsibility lies on the Prime Minister. We don't want to debate the Front's future course of action with regard to that minister.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, the situation in the state, which we are witnessing for the last three days, is not conducive. There were no violence anywhere but the statement from the people holding the highest office that they have told their people through Television not to indulge in any kind of act of violence. What does this mean? Whether they want to indulge in the act of violence because violence was taking place anywhere. Nothing such was happening in the House still the statement from the person holding the highest office that nobody will indulge in any act of violence (Interruptions).

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the prevailing situation in the state because you are holding highest office and people have a lot of expectations from you and entire country is looking at you and at the Prime Minister with high hopes. Being representative of that state it is our responsibility to raise the matter pertaining to the state before you.....(Interruptions)

We are not opposing anybody but we are concerned about the state and being a member of the Front, I am very much concerned. I wish that whatever they were taking about C.B.I.....(Interruptions)

He said that.....(Interruptions) Shri Joginder Singh has given one more statement(Interruptions) Joginder Singh has given one more statement that he had sought some more time because or he had said this thing so that the matter should not come to an end immediately. Let nobody watch them and they would complete the work silently ... (Interruptions) this is what Mr. Joginder Singh said but when the points lies on C.B.I's stand or on corruption. Sharad Bhai has suggested one week period for corruption and one weeks period for Bofors, that question stands now here. Keep one week each for separate issues but today everybody is worried about the issue of animal Husbandary. We will not keep quiet if somebody questions or make allegation against this Front. We are the members of that Front.....(Interruptions) It is because we are the member of this House and we too have the right to speak(Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, law and order situation is deteriorating in the state. It is fundamental and moral responsibility of the opposition to burn effigies all over the state(Interruptions) anybody's effigy could be burnt. Anybody can sit on 'Dharna' and move anywhere but the people holding power as the Administrative officers, the leaders are not doing anything, they are removing us completely and the administrative officers posted there are causing us harassment. These are the norms there. If the centre receives any threat then what will happen to the state? It must be a cause of concern to you.

I would like that Prime Minister should take the House and certainly the country into confidence, all leader are sit-

ting here. C.P.I. and C.P.M. are also a part of the United Front, people belonging to every party are in the United Front then on behalf of the United Front this message should reach the country that at any cost, whatever be the number of cases, United Front is not ready to give support to them....(Interruptions) But they talk about investigation. In 1974 Laloo Yadav Ji was like a soldier of the opposition Party....(Interruptions) You don't worry about our company....(Interruptions) You talk about investigation(Interruptions) I want to tell you one thing today....(Interruptions) I do not want to say anything(Interruptions) I am speaking on behalf of the Front. I am not speaking about anybody.....(interruptions) I want to tell you this much.....(Interruptions). I will finish my speech in one minute. I want to request you through this House. I met the President and Governor yesterday to inquire about directions....(Interruptions) The Front has taken tough decision on this question. How far the Prime Minister is concerned about this country and about the state where people are dying of starvation. Whether the Prime Minister is concerned about this or not? This country must know this. With these words I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to express the opinion of our party as well as of mine on the questions that has been raised here. All the Members have already said about the seriousness of the CBI's report which has been given and then they are also waiting and wanting to proceed against those who have been mentioned in the report(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a place for argument please.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, as I understand(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Please keep quiet now.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, whether we accept it or not it is true and most sorrowfully I have to state that the situation that has arisen in the country has already put us, the politicians, in the dock. We must understand that. We must find the way so that this state of affairs can be totally obliterated by our way of functioning and by our way of dealing with these things. Personally, whether I am honest or not, that is another thing. But we must appear to be so which is very important. That is why, this point really is very important. Since very serious charges have been brought, it is always better to create a situation by our own way of functioning so that people can understand that and can say that these are the people who really are ready to face any situation. What is that 'any situation'? It is that if a man is not ultimately convicted, everybody will understand that he was correct and his point of view, his prestige and his party's prestige would go up.

This is not the only time that we have been tried. Therefore, in future also people will understand it if we take a stand. If some serious charges have been brought against me, even though the actual proceedings have not yet started, but some serious charges are there, then I will wait.

I will say that till I am freed by a court from these charges, I shall not remain in the position which I am now holding maybe, as a leader of the Party or as a Minister. The bureaucrats would also learn from our behaviour. We can also discipline them.

Therefore, the Government should take it seriously and find a way so that the prestige of the Government as also the prestige of all the politicians as a whole could go up instead of going down. This is one of the cases where we can surely do it and in future also all such cases can be dealt with like this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with Sharad Yadav Ji that discussion on corruption should not be in parts. Suppose, today first phase starts and second, third can be started on some other day. He has said something, I agree with him the disease of corruption is like cancer. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might be aware that I had been a cancer patient for one year. If you want to treat cancer, you have to treat it on time otherwise operation is required for its treatment. Chemotherapy is required or radiation is given. The disease of corruption which is breaking out, if it is to be eradicated, steps to cure it must be taken up in time and now it is appropriate time. Therefore immediate discussion must be held on this subject.

It is a first case of this type in which a union Minister and Chief Minister and President of a Party are involved. In this situation a serious discussion should be held and immediate steps should be taken to check its recurrence. I would like that the role of Prime Minister should stand the test of time.

Here we have discussed about Antulayji and I am very closely associated with the discussion. I was the lone member who had lodged a complaint with the Governor against Antulayji. I am happy that Antulayji has never made any such allegation openly against me or us, nor he threaten us with dire consequences. At that time the Honourable Governor also said that there are facts in your cases and he gave me permission to file the case. Therefore, I would say that if complaint against somebody has been received of the persons who have to take a decision in this regard, must decide without threatening anybody.

Thirdly, this House or the Prime Minister can not be a silent spectator to all these things. Therefore, what is happening in Bihar, there is a need to ask for a report from the Governor there. That report itself will show the situation prevalent there. The Prime Minister should ask the Governor there to send a report and what he is doing there, a report to that effect must also be asked for and if necessary and I think it is necessary and if there is demand to dismiss the Government there. The Government should be dismissed, I demand that the Prime Minister should make a statement in this regard.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to bring 4-5 points before the House regarding the matter which is being discussed in the House, for the last one hour. C.B.I officers are saying something for the last 2-3 months and on that announcement taking any step

or asking to take a step is not right. If any demand for permission to file a charge-sheet is made the Government of India or Honourable President or Governor, should grant permission and the day this permission is given, the person holding high office must be asked to resign from that post. Earlier on many occasions Congress faced this situation or whenever some complaints were received against some of our colleagues, such steps were taken. Whether he is T.T. Krishnamachary or K.D. Malviya, last time names of several of our colleagues were taken in the House in connection with Hawala. Sh. Madhav Rao Scindia is sitting here and there are several our colleagues, who immediately resigned. Antulayji's case had been referred several times there because as his name appeared he submitted his resignation immediately. This case has taken 12-14 years and at last it was proved in the court that the allegations against him were false. Therefore, when such complaints are received against the people's representative holding high office and the need to take some steps arises while accepting moral responsibility we have to take some steps for maintaining their prestige. Congress Party always has supported this ideology and we support it today also.

Something in this regard has been reported in the Newspapers. I do not know the truth behind these news. Some people want that the matter which should be decided by the Court, and should not be taken to the streets.

It is our responsibility to maintain the dignity of all such institutions. If once a confusion is created among the people about these institutions then the whole country has to pay the price for this and it is totally wrong if some responsible persons give such statements.

I would like to raise one more question regarding the need for a debate in respect of approach of the investigating agency adopted and its role. I am unable to understand why the investigating agency is reporting to the media on day to day basis. If they want to file chargesheet against somebody or their demand for permission, they must ask for the permission and must issue the chargesheet but it will take them one more month. But reporting all these details to the media is wrong. It creates apprehensions regarding the credibility of the investigating agency in public minds. Sometimes it appears that the investigating agency is engaged in defaming the politicians in the country. Hawala Case has been discussed and the High Court has given some judgement in the cases of Vidayacharan Shukla and Advaniji. The investigating agency has announced that it would like to appeal in the Supreme Court. I don't know whether they had taken government permission or not. What is the need to appeal after the judgement. I had read in a Newspaper that after his resignation Advaniji has never visited the House, entered the premises of Parliament House. Any politician who did not enter the Parliament House premises for once after the High Court's decision, they are going to appeal again. It will take 5-10 years in the Supreme Court then the political career will be spoiled and it will be his political death. We have to consider whether there is any need for appeal when the High Court has given its decision?

The working of investigating agencies has been exposed several times. Kalpnath Raiji, who is sitting here in

this House, was sentenced for ten years and on filing an appeal against it in the Supreme Court, Supreme Court observed that those who sentenced him did not have even the elementary knowledge of criminal law. Perhaps Supreme Court has made such a statement for the first time and therefore sometimes it appears that the investigating agencies investigate with a pre-determined mind to implicate someone or to spoil one's political career. It is, therefore, necessary to have a detailed debate in this regard so that the functioning of these agencies could be improved. This much I would like to submit.

SHRI RAM KIRPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is today discussing a very serious issue. Many hon. Members have expressed their views especially Fodder scam has been the focus of today's discussion. In this regard, I would like to make my submission. I appeal to the hon'ble members that they would also listen to me as I have listened to them....(Interruptions) Have patience.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention that in Fodder scam Government of Bihar itself took an initiative to find out the truth and has filed 43 F.I.Rs. against about three hundred people. This scam started in 1977 but so far nobody cared to know about it. But under the leadership of Laloo Yadav, our government took steps for bringing this issue before the public and showed the world how treasury was being looted on a large scale. How the officials being in collusion were not doing their duty for a long time. Under the circumstances, state government instead of hiding, tried to bring the reality before the people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you would be pleased to know that C.B.I has not conducted a separate enquiry. It has investigated into the 43 cases which the State Government filed. The intention of the State Government has been very clear. The people who were involved have been arrested and dismissed from service. The intention of State Government has been clear and it also attached the property of officials and other found involved in it. But unfortunately some political parties which lost their credibility among the masses and were defeated in elections worked to get this case investigated by C.B.I through Court. We welcome it but if we go into all the aspects one by one it is quite clear and many of our hon. members have also explained that. since when C.B.I. has undertaken the investigation of this case this matter has been politicised and under a political conspiracy one particular person is being made the target. Shri Sharad Pawar has said that previously CBI was known as an intelligence agency of our country and the people used to respect it but it is also surprising to know as to how the people in the fodder scam were implicated by it after preparing a hit list.

I would like to know the facts in this regard from the hon. Prime Minister. An affidavit was filed on 20th by the Government saying that report consists of 2000 pages and requires much more time to study. Thus extension of time may be granted. After that in Calcutta it is said that it will take two weeks. What was the hurry to announce it on Sunday at 4 p.m. It is agitating the minds of the people and they want to know why Sunday was chosen for this announcement when offices were closed and officers had not come

to office on that day? How was the task of studying two thousand pages got completed so early particularly when Supreme Court and High Court have directed to present the report directly to the court and will not be made public? But it was made public. People want to know about it also. I would also like to know how Hon. Atalji in his letter to the Prime Minister referred to accused No.24, who has a mention in the report. How he came to know about that person. I feel that a conspiracy has been hatched against a person who is uplifting the poor and endeavouring to bring them honour. Under whose leadership poor people of whole Bihar are progressing and there was communal harmony and social unity in Bihar. He was working towards Hindu-Muslim unity. They want to crush such a price. This is the only fault of Laloo Yadav. It has been the history of the world and the country. When a son of the poor comes forward then he is suppressed and it is obvious from this case that Shri Laloo Yadav, who has tried to clear the country from corrupt people and when these people thought that they cannot defeat Laloo they have been trying to entrap him by hatching a conspiracy. The one who tries to catch the culprit is himself made the culprit. It is a paradox. I want justice. I want justice from the Hon'ble Prime Minister. People like Nitish Kumar and Pappu Yadav are shouting and telling about the corruption (*Interruptions*) but they themselves indulge in corruption. What were they six years ago and what are they after six years.....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have given you opportunity.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KIRPAL YADAV : Today they are talking about corruption. Here are such people who were talking in the House.....(*Interruptions*) People involved in the scams have stated that people from Samata Party have also taken money from them.....(*Interruptions*) In this regard investigation should also be made. Every aspect should be investigated. I demand this.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : My name has been quoted. I was silent.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Is truth pinching you. You should have courage to face the truth(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker. Sir, he says that what was Shri Pappu Yadav and what he has become now after six years.....(*Interruptions*) If general if we say that what was the son of a peon and what was Pappu Yadav in the family of Chief Minister. I challenge them.....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

.....(*Interruptions*)*

*Not Recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman Sir, you ask him as to what he has said(*Interruptions*) If it is so then I will resign from the membership of the House.....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on?

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now

.....(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : But we should not level allegation against anybody(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

.....(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KIRPAL YADAV : I am demanding justice . I should be given chance to express my views (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You yourself are disturbing him.

.....(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KIRPAL YADAV : The persons who according to the people of Samta Party are involved in the scam and, those who have been charge-sheeted in the scam have given a statement that me have given money to the leaders of Samata party. The veracity of their charge it must be ascertained. It is told that this statement has been given under Section 164. It is told that this and that House or property belongs to the Chief Minister of Bihar Government. I can challenge that not a single officer has given right information about the property of Laloo Yadav. Instead his character assassination has been done. I want to challenge the House that the people of Samata Party and BJP should prove the allegations made against him and if they fail they should resign from the political life.

Honourable Speaker Sir, there is panic among people due to a particular person, who is a leader of the poor and backward people, that is why this allegation is politically motivated conspiracy. They have an apprehension that if they failed in implicating Laloo Yadav ji in the scam, then one day he would be the leader of this country(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I would like to tell you that when Janta Dal came to power in Bihar, it restored dignity of the poor and controlled the communal forces in Bihar. It tried to root them out and

that's why there is resentment among the communal element right from that very day the Janta Dal came in power when hon'ble Shri Adwani ji's Rath Yatra was and the whole country was facing communal riots Laloo Yadav ji tried stop them in Samastipur. That is why they are feeling uneasy.....(Interruptions).

Sir, I would like to submit through you that Shri Sharad Pawar has rightly said that rising above all other consideration we should take up discussion on corruption but while doing so we should take care that it should not be against any particular person or any particular class. If son of a poor makes progress then there is no need to make hul and cry. Sir the issue before us is that Shri Joginder Singh leaked out the chargesheet to the newspapers instead of furnishing them in the court and Hon'ble Shri Atalji has quoted those press reports. It seems that he is being indicted in the scam under the conspiracy of B.J.P(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : If the name of the Chief Minister cannot mentioned then his name should also not be taken again and again....(Interruptions).

SHRI RAM KIRPAL YADAV : So far as question of resignation is concerned, I would like to say that this Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly has not been constituted by any Prime Minister or other people of this country nor they have elected the Chief Minister. This work has been done by the MLAs and people of Bihar. No one can compel Laloo Yadav to resign till the MLAs and people of Bihar are supporting Laloo Yadav, the Chief Minister of Bihar. We are talking of morality and values. We know how much regard we have for moral values. I also know about the values that are being upheld by the people of BJP and Samta Party sitting on that side. You talk of values though you are yourself are devoid of any morality.....(Interruptions). This is a political conspiracy. They should have the knowledge of everything before trying to implicate Laloo Yadav in fodder scam. This election has been held three-four times within one and a half year after these scams(Interruptions)

Whether it is a sort of retaliation in the aftermath of this election. Even now the people of Bihar are ready rout out you in the elections. They will end the Coalition of BJP and Samta Party In Bihar. The poor people of Bihar will try of end the coalition of BJP and Samta Party. Poor people of Bihar are with Janta Dal and Laloo Yadav. No force can remove him(Interruptions) I demand that a commission should be constituted. There should be a debate on it and everything should be made crystal clear. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, there has been a specific reference to my party and to me. So, I want to explain something.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mandal ji, when Nitish Kumar ji is standing, you many please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : I have given the notice.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have forfeited your chance because you stood up twelve times and wasted the time of the House. I am not allowing you.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No you have forfeited your right. You are responsible for wasting the time of the House yourself.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you behave, you would get the time to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now hon'ble member Shri Ram Kirpal Yadav has made wild allegations during the discussion. A thrashed army resorts to rampage C.B.I. as making investigation and if any evidence is found against any person then a chargesheet will be filed against him. I would like to say one thing that if a charge sheet is filed against any M.P. or MLA of Samta Party then he will resign from them membership of Parliament and Legislative Assembly. He would not down grade himself by continuing the membership of the legislature. It is called shamelessness in Bihar. It is the highest degree of shamelessness and these people do not have any amount of self-respect at all.....(Interruptions). Chargesheet has been filed and still you are time and again repeating this thing only(Interruptions). For the last one year, when investigation into fodder scam had started and elections to the Parliament were held at that time only 22 persons could get themselves elected to Lok Sabha under the leadership of Laloo Yadav and when Bhartiya Janta Party contested the elections with Samata Party then 24 M.P.'s won the election from that Bihar only. Today you are showing us your might. You will be reduced to dust in the elections. Therefore, it was very necessary to clarify this point.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, I will call Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad now. Enough, Shri Nitish Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There is no point in seeing whatever come to your mind.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Speaker Sir, would like to ask one question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Rita Verma. I cannot allow you. We have only fifteen minutes' time before lunch. The Prime Minister is here to reply. Shri Nishad, you should take just two minutes.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : I want to ask just one thing.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Verma, I cannot allow all individual explanations here.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : I just want to ask one thing that as to whether he can say these things referring the name of CBI Chief.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing about it.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no allegation about him.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on behalf of Bahujan Samaj Party on the discussion about fodder scam in Bihar. Our Leader of Opposition was expressing his views and all the hon. Members have expressed their views. I will also express my views in short. C.B.I has asked for permission to chargesheet a union minister and the Chief Minister of Bihar and concern is being expressed about this in the House and we are criticising each other. I would like to express my views on that. Today the situation is that when we visit our Constituency and express our views about the elimination of corruption then the public and the employees of all categories say that leaders of the country are involved in Havala scam, Bofors scam, Telephone Scam, Fodder scam etc. We have to hang our heads in shame because of such scams. I agree with points expressed by Pilot ji. In Uttar Pradesh I.A.S. has constituted one forum to punish the corrupt I.A.S. officers and in this forum they have achieved some success. We want that a committee should be constituted with two or four members of all parties and investigations against corrupt people must be made and all political parties must not give election tickets to the persons who have Benami property worth crores and laks of rupees. Hon. Speaker, Sir, a number of such scams will come up for discussion like guest house scandal of Uttar Pradesh, Ramesh Chandra Report and Ayurvedic Scam of Uttar Pradesh. I would like to say that corruption is the country is a disease which is thousands of years old. Many Trust and temples of the country earn crores and crores of income and it is not utilised for development of country but for individual. This must be nationalised and donations amount to crores of rupees which are made to the temples of the country and gifts and funds offered to leader by the the industrialists should be banned and discussions should be held about the property of crores of rupees accumulated in the temples. Why do we not discuss about that? Funding by the industrialists should be banned. Until these things are not charifled corruption will prevail.

Just now Sharad Yadavji was talking about caste system that this caste system must be eliminated. All types of people are present in this House. I would like to appeal all the Hon. Members that nobody should use surname before or after the name like our Kanshiramji. Only then we will feel that everybody is against the caste system. Many

people say that they are against the caste system but they use their surname and put caste restrictions. These type of double standards will not serve the purpose. Until the difference between words and actions are not cleared, nothing can be done. The issue of corruption is not new, it is thousands year old. You give directives for this. A committee should be constituted in this regard and it must discuss this issue. A solution must be evolved after discussing it. I would like to demand from the Prime Minister that he must take a special decision on the issue to granting permission to file chargesheets against the Union Minister and the Chief Minister of his party. He must take some action in this regard. Today every leader is deviating from this issue by talking about caste system and other unnecessary things. This issue cannot be ignored. The people of this country are looking at the Prime Minister as to how he is going to do justice in an impartial manner.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It has turned to be a two hour debate.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA (Sangrur) : Honourable Speaker Sir, you have done a good thing by giving a chance to discuss this matter in the House. For several years, many scandals are taking place one after another the situation in the country is such that people are feeling that politicians, who are our representatives in Parliament and assembly have become corrupt. Many big scandals have occurred and prominent people were involved in it. Investigation agency is the same but its head has been changed from time to time. This is an agency of the Central Government and they have the right to enquire into the scandals. When such scandals come before the people again and again then people's faith in the politicians started dwindling and they started thinking that what type of people are they, whom they have sent there for doing a good job and to work for the welfare of the country but they are involved in other activities. Gradually people gained information about such big scandals in which prominent persons were involved. Out of these scams one scam is being discussed here today. If only this much has been said that investigation has been done and its report would be sent to the court and the charge-sheet would be filed then this matter could have finished there only and this matter would not have been stretched so much but it is being felt that they are not prepared to accept anything, whether any investigation take place or any charge-sheet is filed against them. People will protest against it. Such news are being published in newspapers also that people will come in the streets. I could not understand as to who are the people who would come on the streets. In favour of whom the people will come to the streets? People want justice. People don't want corruption in the country, people will not like that their representatives are involved in corruption and public money is squandered. The fodder scams being discussed. Fodder is meant for animals but it is seen that men have eaten that fodder. When human beings start eating fodder then the people

are bound to feel pained. People feel that there should be a limit to this end. Justice should be done. But the people who are authority to give justice, they used to say that people will take a decision thereon. I am very surprised to see that some people of their party support this fact while others oppose it. Such a situation has arisen first time.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Yes, it has happened for the first time.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Pappu Yadav. Kindly conclude now. Shri Barnala.

[*Translation*]

SARDAR SURJEET SINGH BARNALA : It has happened for the first time that within a party, some members of a state opposing and while some are supporting it. Members of the same party have different opinions. During the past when a rail accident was occurred the then railways Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri resigned as Minister of Railways, although he was not directly responsible for it. He was leader in the real sense. Now a days such thing are not seen. At least we should create this type of atmosphere. Even a single charge was strong enough for a person to submit his resignation. These days chargesheets have been filed and CBI is demanding that permission to fill the case should be given. At such occasions these leaders should have resigned so that people do not doubt their character. Therefore I would like to submit that at least we should have courage to wipe out corruption in the country.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee expressed his views on Fodder scam. CBI has conducted an enquiry into this scam. Newspapers have been reporting this case and today the matter is going to be discussed in the House. Everybody know that this subject will be taken up for discussion in the House. The Chief Minister of Bihar, other ministers and a union minister and some officers in the states are involved. CBI wants that cases should be filed against these persons. Since the name of one union state Minister is involved and Chief Minister of the State is also involved, so permission would be sought from the Governor of the state for filing case against the Chief Minister and from President for filing case against a Union State Minister.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is being discussed in the House; I thought since it is the responsibility of the Government to issue a statement in this regard. The reason being that the majority of the people on whom charges have been levelled belong to the ruling party. Charges of corruption have been levelled against the party President also. Within five ten minutes the Leader of Opposition had completed his statement that the public is losing faith in the public representatives.

13.00 hrs.

When such scams are taking place and public representatives are found involved in them. So the best alternative before such people is that they should voluntary resign from their posts.

Secondly it is responsibility of the Government to see whether the statement of the CBI published in the newspaper regarding the charges levelled against them is correct or not. The statements of the CBI may be wrong but the charges levelled against them not wrong. This responsibility should be borne by the Government. I was surprised to hear the speech of Shri Sharad Pawar. He said that the enquiry should be conducted against the Institution which is conducting this enquiry, The credibility of that institution has come under doubt. This institution works under the Prime Minister. While making his statement Prime Minister should make a reference in this regard. But the Government.....(*Interruptions*). The Court would tell regarding its working, but when charges are levelled against public representatives., no efforts should be done to protect them. It is not correct. Our country is also known for the scams. Government should clear its stand regarding the persons against whom charges have been made, if the image of the country is to be improved.

[*English*]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to express the views of my party regarding this issue. The main question to be considered is whether after the Central Bureau of Investigation has sought the permission to prosecute one of the Ministers, who is a part of the Central Ministry, it is proper for him to continue to hold the office of a Minister even after making a specific allegation before the Press. I would like to say that scams and corruption have become the curse of Indian politics. We are proud of not having a piece of allegation of corruption against the United Front Government for the last 10 months. So, I would like to say that regarding this issue, everybody knows that unless and until a person- an accused is convicted by a court of law, the criminal law of India presumes that he is innocent. That is an accepted principle. We all agree with it. But it is a question of propriety and morality. It is a question of democratic principles. And upholding the principles of morality, propriety and democratic principles, I would like to say that it is better to resign so as to uphold the principles by which the democratic principles will be highlighted.

A specific allegation has also been levelled against the CBI. The CBI has been subjected to severe criticism for the last three years. The mechanism under which the CBI is functioning and the *modus operandi* of the investigation are being brought out in the Press, the media and everybody is surprised. Shri Sharad Yadav has made a specific allegation pointing out the hurry in which this investigation has been made and then coming out before the Press. That also is to be discussed in detail. I would like to say whether it is better to continue to hold the office.....(*Interruptions*)

The Common Minimum Programme is the basic document of the United Front Government which envisages that this Government is an alternate made of Government and is committed to transparency. In order to fulfil the Commitment it is better that the person or the Minister against whom the allegation has been made resigns on his own. It

is better so as to uphold the principles of democracy and propriety.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, since almost all issues have been covered. I will take only few minutes to bring my points on the notice of the Government. I have read in the newspapers that CBI will seek the Government's permission to file the chargesheet in the matter on the basis of the reports of the newspapers, now what can be said here, except that the Governor, the head of the State Government will proceed in this case as per the rules and the constitutional provisions. If permission is sought from the Governor he would study the Constitution and act according to the laws. The Governor will solicit the opinions of constitutional experts. So far as political differences, political individuals, political leaders and political parties are concerned, we expect that all of them would set a very good democratic and moral example. I am on my legs to say these two things only and not to advise any one as to what he should do and what not but this is a fact that he should set the best democratic example in this matter. Be he a Governor the head of the State or the Government itself, law is above them and they should take every action in accordance with the constitutional provisions.

At the same time I would like to make an important submission before the people that we should not forget those nations and communities which were completely destroyed because of their discriminatory laws, that is different laws for the people of different strata of society. What is this that you are going to file a chargesheet against a common man, you do not need to take the permission of his family members or anybody else but it is *vice versa* in the cases of we politicians and bureaucrats. Why are we required to take the permission of the Governor or, to say, head of the state for filing a chargesheet against the politicians? We should repeal such discriminatory laws. There should be no discrimination in the interest of a person who is chargesheeted or subjected to enquiry or sued in a court of law.

But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have also to consider one more question and that is,

[English]

Who is going to police the Police.

[Translation]

Shri Atal Bihari ji, for whom I have great regard in my heart, has this way or that way, repeatedly raised a question in this House as to why the Congress has withdrawn his support on 30th only? I was thinking that today he would be raising the question as to why the CBI Chief has decided to file the chargesheet only on the 27th day of the month? Why, only on the 27th which was also Sunday? A few days ago he was saying that case requires more study for which they need more time but what happened that all of a sudden he decided to file the chargesheet on a holiday? I am not speaking either in favour or against anybody

but it is an important issue which I am raising. Now I demand that our hon. Prime Minister should institute an enquiry to look into the case as to why the decision was taken only on the 27th i.e. Sunday? Why the decision was taken in such a hurried manner?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Probably he has apprehended his transfer the next day i.e. on 28th.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Why this haste? It also requires investigation so that people's faith in our handling of the case remains unshattered.

Moreover, even if the CBI has, at all decided to file the chargesheet, they should have proceeded further with their action. What is this that they went to media and spread the news on T.V and newspapers? What is this that they are making this announcement in a press conference? Why was such a method adopted to make this announcement and why only on that day i.e. 27th? This all requires to be investigated.

Hon. Prime Minister, you had said that there would be no witch hunting and you would study the files. You would go on studying your files but at this moment I am reminded of a couplet of Ghalib :

Hamne Mana ki Tagaful Na Karoge Lekin
Khaak ho Jayenge Ham Tumko Khabar Hone Tak.

I am a person who neither understands as to what is corruption or what is the experience of being a corrupt. But if we have to run the country and if we want to give a best democratic Government, then we have to see that there is no witch-hunting and the real culprits are brought to book and law is allowed to take its own course. And at the same time we have also to ensure that our police, our administration and our CBI do not misuse their powers for their ulterior motives. Therefore I would like that these things are taken note of.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Party's position has always been very clear. Although we know that everybody, until proved guilty, is presumed to be innocent but people occupying certain positions cannot take up that attitude. Therefore, we have always felt that it is in the fitness of things— to maintain the polity of this country— that when such allegations or charges are made, the politicians and officials should respond in a manner that leaves no doubt in the minds of the people about the investigation or the trial. Therefore, it is fit and proper that such resignation should take place. We have had instances in this country. One type of instance was provided by Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri when he resigned taking moral responsibility for a railway accident. Another type of responsibility is involved here.

We mainly talk of cleanliness in politics. We must act in a manner which gives people the confidence that all politicians try to maintain that. Unfortunately there is no doubt that today all politicians are under a cloud. This is helping neither us nor the political system. With all humility I wish to say that so far not a single allegation has been made against

any politician belonging to the Left. That does not mean that we should be callous about it. We are more concerned as this is something which should be maintained.

I would here like to say that sometimes to maintain our credibility, for the prestige of this country, we are taking up attitudes which probably cannot help us. Sometimes, there is a trial by Press or a trial by us in the House. There should be some method to do it. There must be some basic principles with regard to this. Sometimes we are coming to conclusions too soon and it is affecting us. Sometimes an attitude of confrontation is taken up. Although the CBI is a very important organisation and we feel that it being the top-most investigating agency in this country ought to have a certain position, certain credibility but sometimes it is functioning in a manner which gives rise to some doubts in the minds of the people. I could not understand all his Urdu but very graphically Shri Banatwalla has said it and I think he means it also. Why was the date chosen as 27th of April, a Sunday, when our esteemed Leader of the Opposition was showing great concern about it on the 24th of April?

He seems to know many things which others do not know. From his letter of 24th April it appears that our Leader of the Opposition was posted with many facts which normal human beings, the ordinary mortal in this country, are not aware of. I do not know how they came to his knowledge; it is for him to explain.

The Director, CBI asks for time and within two days makes an announcement. Going by what Shri Pramod Mahajan just now said, probably he was trying to prevent his removal from that post. Is there any basis for that? I do not know! If he was going to be removed from his position on 28th April, then he was pre-empting that. Is this the way CBI should function? I have said that the resignation should follow. Following that well-established principle does not mean that other very important agencies will behave in a manner which unnecessarily raises doubts in people's minds. Shri Pramod Mahajan seems to be a very well-informed person. He said that within 13 days he could achieve many things. Let us know what the basis of his intervention just now is. Was it true?

I respectfully submit that when we have such a discussion, everybody starts saying, as the leader of the Opposition has said, "I do not want it to be a political matter" but it degenerates into a gross political battle on the floor of the House with accusations and counter-accusations. Sharadji has said that for four days he wants to have a discussion on corruption in this country. I do not know what will be the scene here in this House when that happens. Something is necessary which is commitment, which is involvement and certain basic values. Merely saying, "No, no, I shall be all right. After we discuss it some *mantra* will be delivered and everything will be cured" would not help. It is not that easy.

I agree with Banatwallaji when he says "Why should there be any distinction between person and person in this country?" What is the logic behind the provision for sanction? The logic is, persons in positions are also vulnerable to false accusations. Therefore, let there not be a sort of

witch-hunting. Let there not be frivolous prosecutions or allegations. But, it is giving rise to doubts in the minds of people. Today, it is unfortunate that the Leader of the Opposition- I find it from his letter- made a serious allegation against the Prime Minister who had taken charge only three days earlier. On 24th April, the Leader of the Opposition writes:

"This change in the attitude, namely, trying to delay the submission of the charge, has strangely coincided with the change of Government at the Centre which I presume is not coincidental."

It is a direct charge on our Prime Minister that once he had taken up the reins of Government, the attitude of the CBI to delay matters occurred. Such allegations were made within three days of his becoming the Prime Minister. One day he went to Jammu, one day he went to Bhubaneswar, I do not know how many hours of time he had to consider these matters. Whether the CBI had sent the applications to the Government for sanction as yet, I do not know. This is a matter of procedure. So long as it remains in the Act of Parliament, it has to be followed.

Many issues have been raised. As I was saying, such discussions generate many other feelings and we always lose track. What is supposed to be a non-Party discussion concerning the future of this country, the prestige of this country and the credibility of the political system, always, ends in mutual recriminations. Therefore, what we have been respectfully suggesting with great conviction is that we are occupying positions and people are looking at us. People are looking at politicians, Ministers, Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers and so on and so forth. They are entitled to expect a certain type of behaviour from us. We cannot take up an attitude and say, "Well, until I am proved finally guilty, I am innocent." Yes, under the law, we are. But we cannot afford to take up that attitude while we are occupying such positions.

Therefore, for the credibility of the system, for keeping people's faith in the system, we request whosoever is facing such charges and allegations to prove themselves. They will get an opportunity to prove their innocence and meet the charges.

Let them wait for that. Heavens will not fall if they are out of power for some time. They can come back if they are innocent thereby setting an example which others should follow for the benefit of the country. That is our position.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Banatwalla has raised a very basic question. The series of events that is being witnessed in the country is not of recent origin but has been continuing for last several years. It is very much apparent that to a large extent, the politicians themselves are responsible for tarnishing the image of politicians. I do agree that several allegations are being levelled now-a-days. Old conventions have been mentioned time and again in this House. I have been a member of Parliament for the last 35 years except for five years term in between. I have also raised several matters.

As Shri Sharad Yadav has said, but I do not recall any such instance when we might not have informed the concerned Minister or concerned person well in advance before raising a matter. I am very much aware as to how a letter addressed to the President or the Prime Minister, unless it is an open letter, falls in the hands of newspaper journalists and general public. We should pay attentions towards our own conduct while speaking about the parliamentary, practices and old conventions. I also agree that whatever is happening is condemnable. However, should we sensationalise the matter to such an extent that it may force the people to come out on the streets. I am against the idea of issuing threats of making the matter public. I am afraid of making the matter public because I am not brave or courageous enough to do so. But I also believe that if torture or oppression crosses a certain limit, the person subjected to it would be forced to take the matter out on the streets.

I would like to refresh the memory of my friends who are making loud proclamations about the conventions of the House. Three of my friends are present here. Allegations were levelled on Antulay ji. Congress leaders consider it to be a very convincing proof of their traditions. Antulayji would probably recall the day the allegations were levelled on him. At that time, no Congress member dared to go over to his house. Only Chandra Shekhar dared to do so.

SHRI ABDUL REHMAN ANTULAY (Kulaba) : This is true.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : You may recall that when Hawala Scam was being discussed in the House, I had maintained that I do not think that Shri Advani and Madhav Rao Scindia could have accepted any Hawala Money that Statement was also criticised in the newspapers. It was said that I am a defuser of crisis. Similarly when Shri Kalpnath Rai was held under TADA. I have known him since the days when we were students. My home is just three kilometre away from his home. I know his family members. When I went to meet him in the prison, several comments were made. Is this the way to root out corruption that we should break our human ties? I won't say whether they were innocent or not. I have stated many a times in the House and when I was running the Government that if our son turns out to be a criminal, we try to persuade him to change his ways and try to get his friends to do the same. At that time we wish to start a dialogue with him. If a son or a daughter of India makes a mistake, we try to put him or her on the right path by firing bullets. What kind of morality are we observing here? I believe that the politicians should observe some decorum and it is binding on all of us to do the same. Even if we do not wish to do so, law and order is there to force us to observe propriety of conduct. Charge sheet has not been filed as yet. I am not aware as to what charges are being framed therein. So is it ethical to demand resignation before chargesheet? If this is not politically motivated, it also can't be deemed to be within the parliamentary code of conduct. A Government official gives a statement to the newspapers that chargesheet is about to be filed. If anybody knows anything about the contents of the same, I am not aware of it. I do not know anything

about that chargesheet. I am also a member of Parliament. I would like to tell you that in 1977 during emergency, the then Prime Minister had sent a C.B.I. Officer to my place for the first time due to some reasons. Before that, I did not even know as to what persons were serving the C.B.I. and what did they look like. But today the C.B.I. officials are giving interviews on television quite openly. I said this in Patna at which it was said that I am saying all this in order to protect Laloo Yadav. If the investigating agencies do not observe any decorum and the Parliament members do not observe decorum, we can not root out crime.

I have a friend who is a jurist and an advocate of justice. He wrote to me as to why do I help the criminals? I replied that I do not help the criminals. I believe that the criminals are destined to die criminals can not survive for long. They die ultimately. If those who are in the power and have the power of law with them, cross their limits, they tend to push society in the realms of darkness forever. Today we are discussing a matter pertaining to a certain person and tomorrow it could be somebody else's turn. Someone was saying that several scams would be discussed here. I would like to submit that today it is us, tomorrow there would be someone else and thereafter somebody else would be there in our place. Could not we have waited for three four days? The skies would not have fallen if we had waited for the charge-sheet? I would like to ask as to what kind of Parliamentary Conventions are we observing in this case? A C.B.I. Director expresses his opinion against someone and states that he is going to file a charge-sheet against such and such person, should all of us rise from our seats to demand a resignation or else it will spell doom for the political decency. Normally I don't speak on it but when falsehood is spread is the name of conventions, propriety and parliamentary practices, I feel that we are heading on a wrong track and as Shri Somnath Chatterjee has stated whether charges levelled would be proved to be true or not. In the case of Shri Kalpnath, the Supreme Court Judge made an observation that the judge who sent Shri Rai to prison did not seem to have even the basic knowledge of law. I had stated in this very House that I do not find Shri Kalpnath Rai guilty of any crime. Shri Somnath Chatterjee and one more left party member, who unfortunately is not present in the House at the moment got into an argument with me. I said that so long as law does not hold a certain person guilty of any crime, why should they be calling that person a criminal? He got angry and tried to prove me guilty. That he did not succeed in doing so is a separate matter altogether.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a need to exercise restraint in Delhi also besides Patna. If we do not exercise restraint in Delhi and instead lecture those in Patna, our lectures will not have any effect.....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : If you protect a certain person it could have wider ramifications.....(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : He is in politics. He considers himself guilty.... I am also a politician. I do not consider myself guilty(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Vijay Goel, no. That is not the way you cannot do like this

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I can't reply to each and every member.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. There is no need to do so.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : There is no need to give any reply. Neither am I supporting anyone nor am I protecting any criminals. But I would certainly like to make it clear that I consider it my duty to protect the dignity of this Parliament. I am not interested in protecting any person. But I would like to say that we have some national values. So long as charges levelled against my senior colleagues, who have served this nation, are not proved, I consider it unfair on my part to say even a word against their dignity and honour. This is my personal belief. Other people also influenced by Indian culture might have their own beliefs. Our culture says that so long as any person is not held guilty of any crime we should not consider him guilty. I won't disgrace myself by calling that person a criminal. Hence I would say that instead of holding the discussion in the House now, the discussion should have been held after the filing of charge-sheet. Then if those named in the charge-sheet would have taken any steps against the constitution, propriety or conventions, the discussion would have been more fruitful. It would have been more in keeping with the parliamentary traditions.

Mr. Speaker, pardon me for saying so but the discussion being held today goes against parliamentary practices, traditions and conventions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Would the Government like to respond? This is a matter which has been raised during Zero Hour; the Government is not bound to reply. But looking at the mood of the House, I do not know whether the Prime Minister would like to respond.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, you are right that normally the Government does not respond to matters raised during Zero Hour and that is my intention. But I think, the discussion has taken a trend; I would only like to say a few words. I would not say more.

I had in the beginning, when I took charge of this Office, made certain commitments in this House. The Commitments were: First, that the Government would be transparent; second, that there would be no witch-hunting; and third, that anybody who has committed a crime would not be spared. I only repeat those and sit down.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.31 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.40 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Forty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Fodder Scam was being discussed in the House, thousands of Samta Party workers were holding demonstration at the Jantar-Mantar road demanding action against the Ministers against whom charge-sheet is to be filed. These workers were lathi-charged in the most barbarous manner. Several people have been injured. I am mentioning this incident because on one hand the Prime Minister gives an assurance and on the other hand what is Government trying to indicate by suppressing the demonstration held by some other political party. It is difficult to comprehend(Interruptions) you should view the situation yourself(Interruptions) This is the problem that the public held a demonstration and you are taking it easy(Interruptions) People are not living only in Patna.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now that you have made your mention, please sit down.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people are being lathi-charged and they are getting injured and the Government wishes to suppress our voice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

14.42 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to expedite setting up of a High Power T.V. Transmitter at Taragarh hill in Ajmer, Rajasthan**

[Translation]

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ajmer is centrally located in Rajasthan. It has great importance from historical, cultural, educational and religious points of view. Ajmer has made an important contribution in the freedom struggle of the country. During the British regime, there were several princely states in Rajasthan. At that time, throughout the entire Rajputana, Ajmer was the Centre of Freedom Struggle activities. Ajmer was a Union Territory till 1956. Doordarshan has launched several channels but what to say of viewing programmes on the new channels of Doordarshan even the programmes telecast on the main channel are not clearly visible in Ajmer, Bhilwara, Pali, Rajasmand, Nagaur and Tonk districts of Rajasthan and at times the telecast is interrupted in between due to which there is resentment among lakhs of T.V. viewers in Ajmer and its surrounding areas.

Non-availability of a powerful T.V. Transmitter is the main reason for poor reception of T.V. programmes in Ajmer. It is a matter of concern that though the Government had taken a decision to set up a High power T.V. Transmitter