

Title: Regarding setting up of Joint Parliamentary Committee to inquire into all aspects of revelations made by Tehelka.com and initiate investigative action against those who were found guilty.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the first half of this Session, we were all witness to certain shocking revelations which we saw with our own eyes on the television. Corruption is a disease which we must all unite to eradicate with a missionary zeal. But corruption in matters of defence and national security is inexcusable and unacceptable. It is not just the opinion of the Congress Party. It is the general opinion all over the country that, especially a Government which has come to power declaring from its house tops that its guiding light is going to be honesty, integrity and transparency, has no moral right to continue in office. This was the general opinion. That is why along with our colleagues on the Opposition benches all of us gave expression to the national sentiment of ire of indignation and disgust.

In the recess period, the Congress declared that it would take this issue to the streets. But what did the Government do in the recess period? What it did is masterly inaction on this particular issue. A Commission of Inquiry, as Akhilesh Singh said, was set up. This is hardly a practice in criminal matters. The Commission of Inquiry is basically a fact finding mission. It does not really have wide powers of investigation which the other agencies have. It has to ultimately report within the confines and parameters of the Terms of Reference which we consider are totally inadequate. In fact, the Terms of Reference are such that one Terms of Reference allows for the investigators to be investigated. There can be nothing more ludicrous. Therefore, unfortunately we have to arrive at this conclusion that this is a mere diversionary tactics and the Government is still obdurate and obstinate.

We want a discussion. There is no question on that. Parliament is always supreme. The Congress has the highest respect for parliamentary debate. But the Government has crossed all the limits in its obduracy and obstinacy. We always maintained a *Lakshman Rekha*. For so many days we maintained the *Lakshman Rekha*. But when the Government is not prepared to respond to the Opposition and when the Government is not prepared to respond to the national sentiment, there is no other way out but to try and wake up this Government to its national responsibility.

Therefore, the Congress has made two demands. One is that, reflecting the authority and majesty and the sovereignty of Parliament, a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be set up which can go into all the aspects. The second demand is that the investigations must commence. The law that is applicable to all other citizens in this country must be made applicable to those who were seen to indulge, according to them allegedly and; according to us and according to the people very clearly, in corruption. These are our two demands. We want a discussion and we are very clear about it.

The Government's stand is, 'debate and no action'. Our stand is, 'action and then debate'. 'First action, then discussion', this is what we want the Government to do. Our minimum requirements are, acceptance of a JPC and initiate investigative action against those who were seen to be indulging in all sorts of nefarious acts. The due process of law should start taking its own course.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I would like to have some response from the Government....(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (CHHINDWARA): The Prime Minister should reply....(Interruptions)

डॉ. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : सर, इनका कार्य ही यह हो गया है कि रोजाना हाउस को डिस्टर्ब किया जाए। (ब्यवधान)

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान (विदिशा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, एक पक्षीय बात कही जा रही है। हमें भी बोलने का अवसर दिया जाए। (ब्यवधान)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We must have some response from the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal would also like to speak on the same subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Why has the Government not started investigation on this particular matter? We would like to know from the Government....(Interruptions) There was a word-by-word commentary. It was an "आंखों देखा हाल" but there was no investigation. Why no one has been engaged? We must have some explanation from the government....(Interruptions) Let us hear the Government on this....(Interruptions) Sir, the Minister wants to respond on two major issues raised by me....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Let the Treasury Benches respond....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Government first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to respond now?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I have no objection. I will respond whenever you will ask me....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This is a very serious matter....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Government's reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT): You first hear our view-point also....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can allow him also. The Government wants to clarify its position.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I will respond to him separately after the elections in Bengal are over....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He can reply again.

...(Interruptions)

**श्री प्रमोद महाजन :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे इस बात पर आश्चर्य हुआ कि इस विषय को शून्य-काल में क्यों उठाया गया। जब से सदन में और सदन के बाहर तहलका की चर्चा शुरू हुई है, सरकार की ओर से बास्-बार-यह कहा गया है कि सरकार सदन में तहलका के सभी पहलुओं पर चर्चा करना चाहती है। (व्यवधान)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): The Government should first take action and then discuss the issue in Parliament....(Interruptions)

**श्री प्रमोद महाजन :** अध्यक्ष जी, हमको यह अजीब तरीका बताया जा रहा है कि "पहले ट्रीटमेंट दो बाद में डायग्नॉस करो"। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Please have some patience. Members were asking for the reply from the Government and now they are not even prepared to listen him.

This is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

**श्री प्रमोद महाजन :** अध्यक्ष जी, जैसा मैंने कहा कि तहलका मामले में सरकार के किसी भी मंत्री पर कोई आरोप किसी टेप में नहीं लगा है। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

**डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (वैशाली) :** उसमें आपके भूतपूर्व अध्यक्ष घूस खा रहे हैं। (व्यवधान)

**श्री मणि शंकर अय्यर (मइलादुतुरई) :** हर मिनिस्टर का नाम लिया गया है। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to hear anything from the Minister? Please tell me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not interested in hearing him.

...(Interruptions)

**कुंवर अखिलेश सिंह (महाराजगंज, उ.प्र.) :** अध्यक्ष जी, तहलका डॉट कॉम की टेप को सदन के पटल पर दिखा दिया जाये। (व्यवधान)

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** यह ट्रेडिशन अच्छा नहीं है।

...(व्यवधान)

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** मिस्टर रामदास आठवले, हम आपको बार-बार बोलते हैं, आप क्या कर रहे हैं।

...(व्यवधान)

**श्री प्रमोद महाजन :** अध्यक्ष जी, बोफोर्स के मामले में गंभीर आरोप लग चुके हैं, प्रामाणिकता तक पहुंच चुके हैं। वे रक्षा सौदे के बारे में संवेदनशील हुए हैं, यह बहुत अच्छी बात है। हम इसका स्वागत करते हैं। **â€¦(व्यवधान)**

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** We take objection to this. He is taking it very lightly. It is not the time for jibes....(Interruptions) He is taking this serious matter very lightly. It is unbecoming of a Minister of Parliamentary Affairs...(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** He is speaking very seriously.

...(Interruptions)

**श्री कांतिलाल भूरिया (झाबुआ) :** अध्यक्ष जी, लाखों रुपये लेते हुए वे रंगे हाथों पकड़े गये हैं।

**â€¦(व्यवधान)**

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** आप इतना जोर से मत बोलो।

...(व्यवधान)

**श्री कांतिलाल भूरिया :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, ये उसकी बात नहीं करेंगे। **â€¦(व्यवधान)**

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** Sir, we would like to know whether the Minister is going to respond in any meaningful manner on the two suggestions. That is all I want to know...(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Let him complete his reply. After that, if you have any doubt, you can ask questions. You are not allowing him to complete his reply. You can ask questions later.

...(Interruptions)

**श्री माधवराव सिधिया :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, ये गंभीर शैली अपनायें, हल्कापन नहीं चलेगा।

**â€¦(व्यवधान)**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Nothing should go on record except the statement of the Minister.

(Interruptions) **â€¦\***

**श्री प्रमोद महाजन :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम तहलका पर बात करने के लिए तैयार हैं। किसी भी प्रकार की कार्यवाही संसदीय राजनीति में चर्चा के बाद होती है। **â€¦(व्यवधान)** सदन का कामकाज रोकने की धमकी देकर यह कहना कि पहले आप ऐसी कार्यवाही करो, उसके बाद हम चर्चा करेंगे, सरकार इसे कभी मंजूर नहीं करेगी। **â€¦(व्यवधान)**

**श्री माधवराव सिधिया :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह क्या बोल रहे हैं ? **â€¦(व्यवधान)**

1224 hrs.

(इस समय श्री कांतिलाल भूरिया तथा कुछ अन्य माननीय सदस्य समा पटल के निकट

फर्श पर खड़े हो गए।)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** There are other important issues which the hon. Members want to raise during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

**श्री प्रमोद महाजन :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम चर्चा के लिए तैयार हैं। उसमें दूध का दूध और पानी का पानी हो जायेगा। **â€¦(व्यवधान)** अगर रक्षा सौदों में कोई बेइमानी की है। **â€¦(व्यवधान)** चर्चा के बाद सारा पता चल जायेगा। **â€¦(व्यवधान)**

\*Not recorded

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. There are other Members also who have given notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing them to raise other matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, there are other Members also who have given notices to raise important matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

1225 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.*

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**1400 hours**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.*

*(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

**1401 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri K.H. Muniyappa, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377, listed for today, are to be treated as laid on the Table of the House.