

Title: Demand to set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe the revelation made by the website Tehelka.com

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Sir, just a few weeks ago, we were witness to a sordid revelation on the *Tehelka* matter which had shocked and disgusted the nation. Earlier, I had said that corruption is in itself a major disease, but corruption in defence matters is totally unacceptable. It is a matter of great regret that the Government has not yet responded positively on this particular matter. Just to say that JPC cannot be appointed because some Commission of Inquiry has been set up is not good enough.

I would draw the attention of the House that as far as the *Ayodhya* issue is concerned, it is a subject matter of courts and at the same time the Liberhan Commission is also sitting on the same matter. In the case of tragic assassination of the late Rajiv Gandhi, we had Verma Commission, Jain Commission and an SIT, inquiring into the same matter in its various aspects. So, to say that JPC cannot be constituted because Commission of Inquiry has already been constituted, is merely throwing smoke screen. This sort of dust cannot be thrown constantly in our eyes. We wanted to raise this issue, but as a responsible Opposition Party, we realised the importance of the financial business to the nation. Therefore, we were glad that the Government had announced that it had an open mind on this issue. I am very happy that we could discuss at length the financial business in the House and that we could transact that smoothly. But as far as this particular issue is concerned, we would like to raise this issue.

As you know, the Congress's view was that this House should continue till the 10th of May. Alternatively, it should sit between 14th and 18th of May. However, in deference to the wishes, the overwhelming wishes, of other Opposition parties and other parties in general we left the decision to you. Now, we suddenly find, according to your announcement yesterday, that you are adjourning the House today. Therefore, there is no time for us to raise this issue. So, we would like to have the response from the Government on this particular matter because they had said that they had an open mind on this. We are going to continue to raise this issue in every forum that is available, both inside and outside the House. It is time the Government of India came clean on this and rid themselves of the shameful episode in which they seem to be participating, by appointing a JPC as per our demand. That is the response that we want from the Government immediately so that we could rest this issue and go into the whole matter comprehensively. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia has asked for the Government's response.

...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Shri Scindia has asked a question and I will respond from the Government's side. What is there for everybody to speak on every subject?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this agreement was reached in your Chamber....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, do not quote what happened in the Chamber.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, at least you should not refer in the House as to what happened in the Chamber. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh speak because he has given a notice for an Adjournment Motion for today on this issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (वैशाली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमने आपको नोटिस दिया था, आपने कहा था कि आप हमें जीरो आवर में बोलने का अवसर देंगे। (ब्यवधान)

श्री राजेश रंजन उर्फ पप्पू यादव (पूर्णिमा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने आपसे मिल कर कहा था और आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर देना। (ब्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पप्पू जी, आपका अगला नंबर है।

श्री राजेश रंजन उर्फ पप्पू यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने कल भी आपसे आग्रह किया था। (ब्यवधान)

(ब्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पप्पू जी, डा. रघुवंश प्रसाद जी के बाद आप बोलिए। अभी बैठिए।

...(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a notice for adjournment motion. That is why I have allowed him.

...(Interruptions)

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, तहलका के माध्यम से देश में जो भ्रटाचार हुआ है, उसके संबंध में मैंने स्थगन प्रस्ताव दिया है। आपने मुझे इस पर बोलने की इजाजत दी है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने इस संबंध में आज तक कुछ नहीं किया है। â€(व्यवधान) मंत्रिमंडल में भ्रटाचार है। â€(व्यवधान) रक्षा सौदों में घोटाला हो रहा है। â€(व्यवधान) इन सबका पर्दाफाश होने के बावजूद भी सरकार ने अभी तक कोई काम नहीं किया है। â€(व्यवधान) जे.पी.सी. की मांग से सरकार भाग रही है। â€(व्यवधान) सरकार घोटाले पर घोटाले कर रही है। â€(व्यवधान) इनका पूरा मंत्रिमंडल भ्रट है। ...(व्यवधान) सरकार 14,15,16.17 और 18 मई को हाउस की बैठक नहीं बुला रही है। â€(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप इस पर गवर्नमेंट का रिस्पांस सुनिये।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Let him respond, Sir....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what the Minister says.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is true that the Government has said that it has an open mind on the issue of formation of JPC on Tehalka issue but the Government has also said that it will take a final view when the Lok Sabha will properly discuss it. Today is the last day of the Session. In 'Zero Hour' we cannot start the formation of JPC. We have to discuss it properly, and come out with a proper motion. Everybody should participate in the discussion and at the

* Not Recorded

end of it, the House shall take a decision whether it wants JPC or not. So, I cannot promise during 'Zero Hour' that we will start forming the JPC. We have an open mind in this regard. Let them come out with a proper motion. We will discuss it at that point of time....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We are walking out in protest.

1207 hrs.

(At this stage, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and some other

hon. Members left the House.)
