

**Title:** Demand for setting up of Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into the disclosure made by website Tehlekha.com.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): We would like to have the Government's response on this. Did they have any rethinking on this? We are saying that through the democratic process...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is passing of the Budget by the House not an important business?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There has to be 'give and take' between the Opposition and the Treasury Benches. That has always been the case. There can be no absolute use of power. Democracy is virtually a partnership. It is the give and take. There can not be absolute use of power. In the past also there have been precedents when the JPC was established when Parliament was not even in Session. There have been such precedents....*(Interruptions)*

श्री रामदास आठवले (पंढरपुर) : हमें पार्लियामेंट में बोलने का मौका नहीं देंगे तो कहाँ देंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको क्या हो गया है? आप बैठिये।

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been past precedents when the JPC had been established in spite of the fact whether the Government enjoyed majority or minority. In fact, it has never been looked in those terms. It has been looked only in terms of the seriousness of the issue involved. There is no absolute use of power in democracy. It is the antithesis of democracy.

There is no absolute use of power in a democracy. It is the anti-thesis of democracy. There is no absolute use of power in a parliamentary form of Government. I would appeal to the Government to be statesman-like. Let them rise to the occasion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD): We are ready for the discussion...*(Interruptions)*. We were ready for the JPC also. But you do not want to discuss it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, we are appealing with all humility. We would like a complete discussion on the financial business. We would like a complete discussion on the Railways. We believe in the parliamentary form of Government...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to have a discussion in Parliament. Sir, a parliamentary form of Government is essentially give and take...*(Interruptions)* It is up to Government to run Parliament and we want to cooperate. But it has to be in the spirit of give and take...*(Interruptions)*. But there cannot be absolute use of power.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I appreciate the concern of Opposition that the discussion should take place on Railway Budget and General Budget. I totally agree that there is a partnership between the Ruling Party and the Opposition to run the House. So, my request to the hon. Members from the Opposition is that 'give and take' does not mean either you give JPC or else we will not allow the House to run. This is not 'give and take'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, it is their proposal to have JPC...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, on the contrary, it is: Either you give me, what I am asking or I will not allow the House to run in a proper manner...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, I think this is not 'give and take'. But this is just 'take and take' and nothing more than that...*(Interruptions)* My request to the Members from the Opposition is that as we have a Constitutional obligation to finish the Budget business before 25<sup>th</sup> of April. And as the Session is going to continue up to 11<sup>th</sup> of May, our dispute over JPC can be resolved even after 25<sup>th</sup> of April. They can make a break for these four days because Railway Budget is a prime Budget where every Member would like to participate in the discussion.

Sir, yesterday, you may recall when the hon. Prime Minister made a statement on GSLV, hon. Leader of the Opposition also made a small speech. So, for those 10 minutes, we did not create any problem because it was a unique achievement. Similarly, Budget is a unique thing which all of us have to pass. Every Member sitting here will be glad if the Opposition will allow to start the discussion immediately so that we can sit throughout the night to put up our views on the Railway Budget. Same is the case with matters relating to the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Disinvestment, and the Finance Bill, 2001.

Sir, I would request that let us discuss what can be done about JPC afterwards. But up to 25<sup>th</sup> of April let us complete our Constitutional obligation. If they want to continue the same agitation, they can continue it from 26<sup>th</sup> onwards up to 11<sup>th</sup> May. So, there is ample time. Therefore, they should not create problem today and should not stop the House to function.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I concur with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs as far as discussion is concerned. I would request the Government to be statesman like, rise to the occasion, agree on a JPC, and allow us to discuss the Railway Budget. They are not allowing us to discuss the Railway Budget...*(Interruptions)* Why do they put it on us? Sir, I do not want to quote anything but there have been reports about JPC.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I am ready to share the honour of statesmanship. That is why, I said let us have a small break for these four days...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There have been reports about JPC. In some forums, there have been Government functionaries who have also said that discussion or no discussion, our mind is closed on JPC and that JPC is ruled out whether there will be a discussion or not. There have been such reports. You know that very well. So, I would request the Government to take a statesman like approach and allow all of us to discuss the Railway Budget by accepting our demand for JPC....*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : The Government is responsible to the House. The House is supreme. It is only the House which can give a verdict in the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There have been occasions when we were in the Government, though the Government was in a minority, even then No Confidence Motion was accepted. This is a parliamentary form of debate. Let the Government rise to the occasion. This is my appeal. Let them understand their responsibility. Primarily it is their responsibility to run the House and we would very much like to cooperate with them.

MR. SPEAKER: Passing of the Railway Budget is also an important item of business. I am appealing to both the sides to please cooperate with the Chair.

So, hon. Members, I am now taking up the Railway Budget.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : No, Sir. This is not right.

MR. SPEAKER: No. I am now taking up the Railway Budget because there is no unanimity in the House.