

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is the sense of the House that the hon. Home Minister should reply and the debate should end here. I am bound by the sense of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Home Minister may kindly reply now.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, I will start. But the Prime Minister wanted to intervene. If the hon. Prime Minister comes in between, then, I will sit down just for him to intervene. You may please permit it....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That would be rather difficult. If you are replying and in-between he wants to intervene, that would be difficult. That is rather difficult.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: He wants to intervene. He is coming for that. It was communicated to him that there are many more hon. Members to speak...(Interruptions) Sir, I will do as you direct...(Interruptions) If you direct me to reply now, I will do it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Home Minister is replying. Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the morning today I promised Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to reply to it in Hindi though I was speaking in English at that time. I am sorry that use of English in my speech was criticised here much. It has been sated that the person who does not respect his mother tongue cannot do anything for the country. Sir, this is my weakness that my mother tongue is not Hindi. My mother tongue in Sindhi.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You can speak in Sindhi.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Medium of my education was English and I have learnt Hindi with my efforts...(Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has come. Will you permit him to intervene now?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Prime Minister has requested for a little intervention. I have called him here to raise his points if House allows me to do so. Then the Minister of Home Affairs will reply to this.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not intend to take part in this debate...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are already late. Please give him a patient hearing.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: But when I heard and read that the leader of Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had made a mention especially about me then clarification on it became necessary. I do not know whether all the hon'ble Members have heard those words during noise and uproar in the House on that day and I felt that mention of my name is being made in some context. When I read her speech afterwards I felt that this mention is not made just in some context but is important part of her speech. I would like to quote her words:

[English]

"The Prime Minister, as the head of this Government, has to decide whether his primary duty is to protect the welfare of the people of India for to succumb to the internal pressure of his Party and its sister organizations."

[Translation]

What does it mean? What is the intention of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi behind saying so. She has reminded me about my primary duty as if other duties are not that important. She has nothing to do with that whether I am bowing to the pressure from Parivar and discharging my duties or not. In her opinion the only criteria of my duty is that whether I am yielding to the pressure from any concerned organisations. This is our internal matter and I ask Sonijaji not to interfere in that. I am not Prime

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

Minister due to the favour of Congress Party but I am here in spite of opposition of Congress. I will be Prime Minister till people of this country are in my favour and what is the need of taking that much interest about me. Further there is question.

[English]

"Will he be submissive and weak in his leadership or will he uphold the prestige of the high office he holds?"

[Translation]

What is intention behind that? What does she mean while saying so. The allegation that I am working under pressure is wrong.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not work under any pressure. My life as Parliamentarian is its proof. Just now I was reading my speech delivered in joint meeting in 1961 which was convened to discuss the issue of dowry. I opposed dowry system at that time. Later on during discussion I had to hear that I was conservative and believed in old traditions otherwise, then why dowry system was being opposed by me?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Neither you accepted dowry nor given dowry.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this incident occurred in 1961. For the first time in 1957 I was elected to Lok Sabha and was in Opposition. I do not know as to what would have happened if I had worked under pressure of somebody. Working under pressure of somebody means...(Interruptions) Why are you so much worried that I should not work under pressure. Just now it was being said that I am under pressure of Parivar. Members of left parties allege that we are working under pressure of USA and other foreign powers. Then how my party and allies are supporting me? What is its propriety? They all know that I do not work under any pressure. In spite of opposition from all over the world we performed nuclear tests. In this House I can tell in details the manner in which a former Prime Minister acted in the matter of nuclear test. Once pit was dug for nuclear tests, tunnel was ready and date of conducting test was fixed and at the last moment the programme was cancelled due to external pressure. I do not work under pressure...(Interruptions) Please keep quiet. There is a limit to hear all this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during Kargil War USA President Clinton invited me to New York and Washington. He told that Prime Minister of Pakistan had come over

there and I should also come there to discuss the matter with them. But I refused and told that this matter could not be discussed till an inch of Indian land is in the possession of Pakistan. I did not go to USA, or work under their pressure...(Interruptions) Why are they so disturbed. What is the meaning of interrupting my speech. Truth is bitter and you cannot hear that. Further more is there.

[English]

His moment of reckoning has come.

[Translation]

This is the speech of the leader of Opposition. Such words have been used against Prime Minister. What is their intention? What is the meaning of words that day of my reckoning has come. I am taking to examinations daily. I am in this Parliament since long. Since when Soniaji did not know anything about politics. Now I am being put in the dock. Has she any right...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appeal to all of you to please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me regulate the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Al the hon. Members may please resume their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appeal to all of you to resume your seats. If there is anything, we can certainly sort it out.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seats?

...(Interruptions)