

Title: Certain statements made by former law minister with regard to the Chief Justice of India and Attorney General of India.

12.11 hrs.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker Sir, certain statements have been made by Shri Ram Jethmalani, former Union Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs with regard to the Chief Justice of India and the Attorney General of India. I have gone through those statements. My Government does not share the views of Shri Ram Jethmalani with regard to the subject matter on which he has spoken. We completely disagree with his perception of the facts. The Government believes in promoting a harmonious relationship between different wings of the State. Without going into the question of correctness of any possible view involved in the issues on which Shri Jethmalani corresponded with the hon. Chief Justice of India, I was of the opinion that even the difference of opinion between the Chief Justice and the Law Minister should not create any imbalance in the harmonious relationship. Thus, in order to ensure that this harmonious relationship is not only maintained but strengthened, I exercised my prerogative and asked Shri Jethmalani to resign.

I have gone into the text of his statements issued yesterday, that is, 27th July, against the Chief Justice of India and the Attorney General of India. I reiterate that my Government completely disagrees with his perception.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House will take up 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Sir, this statement is a highly generalised statement. A number of very important questions arise from his statement. How did he allow it to happen? Why was action not taken on time? What about the issue of confidentiality of papers used? ...(Interruptions) What about the words used by the Law Minister against the Chief Justice of India and the Attorney-General? What about the confrontation that is brewing between the Executive and the Judiciary? ...(Interruptions) All these matters must be cleared. Therefore, we would like to have clarifications. We would request you to allow a discussion on this subject because we do not want to go into the individuals concerned. ...(Interruptions) It is a larger issue that the hon. Prime Minister has talked about – the issue of Constitution, the issue about delicate balance between the Executive and the Judiciary, issue of how confidential papers are used, issue of possible impropriety of the Attorney-General, issue of permission being taken by the Attorney-General from the former Law Minister when he is appointed under the aegis of the Prime Minister...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are no clarifications allowed on the statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, these are all issues on which we seek clarification and we would request you to allow a discussion on this particular issue. Until a discussion is allowedâ€¦...(Interruptions) Sir, you are not even listening to what I have to say. I have certain very serious submissions to make. I would beseech you to kindly consider what I am saying because there are very fundamental matters. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions) â€¦*

* Not recorded