

Title: Regarding meeting of five Union Ministers with the President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad in New Delhi over the issue of construction of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya in U.P.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, you have called me to speak. I have to take up my issue. When will I take up my issue? Since Friday, I have been waiting patiently to take it up. I want to bring a serious matter before the House but the matter is not coming up.....(Interruptions) If you ask me to sit down, I will sit down and will not raise it. But Sir, this matter is very importantâ€¦... (Interruptions) Yesterday, I drew the attention of the House in the `Zero Hour' and today also, I have given notice to raise a matter which is extremely important for the secular foundation of this country. For the last 15 days, several reports are appearing outside the House to defy the Government's directives and the Supreme Court's order and to decide their own design.....(Interruptions)â€¦ Sir, what is this going on? Should the Opposition not speak? Why are they standing up now?.....(Interruptions)

श्री रामदास आठवले : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमें सैक्यूलर इंडिया को बचाना होगा, ये लोग सैक्यूलर इंडिया का करैक्टर खत्म कर रहे हैं।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अभी जीरो-आवर शुरू हुआ है, आप बैठ जाइये।â€¦ (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the other day, hon. Home Minister, during the reply to the discussion under Rule 193, made it abundantly clear to the House, took the House into confidence that what happened on the 17th October was not encouraged by the Government. He assured the House that no untoward incident of this kind shall take place again.

I draw your attention to clauses 3 and 4 of article 75 of the Constitution which says:

"The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People (that is, Lok Sabha).

Before a Minister enters upon his office, the President shall administer to him the oaths of office and of secrecy according to the forms set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule."

I am not talking about the Third Schedule. If I talk about the Third Schedule, then the conduct of the five Ministers who had been in a dinner party at the residence of an MP in North Avenue in the presence of Shri Ashok Singhal does violate the very oath of secrecy listed in the Third Schedule while it has been clearly stated that they should treat all people equally and in the same manner, and they should not violate it.

Sir, the five Ministers are responsible to Lok Sabha, with all my regards, not to Rajya Sabha. They have to explain their conduct in detail in the House on query of the Members of the Lok Sabha and the Government is collectively responsible.

It has been stated in the leading newspaper of the country, *The Hindustan Times*, names of five Ministers. They are, Shri Ved Prakash Goyal, the Minister of Shipping, Shri Shripad Yasso Naik, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta, Minister of State in the Ministry of Power, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development, and Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. It has also mentioned that about half a dozen Members of Parliament were also present, but that is different. As per the report, Shri Ashok Singhal has stated that temple would be built from 12th March onwards. When asked as to what would happen if the Government does not agree to it, it was replied, 'Government or no government, we shall do it'. This comment was applauded.

We are not attributing motives. But the five Ministers are answerable to the House. The House should know what transpired in that meeting. The Ministers should make it clear, whether they share that perception; and whether they obtained the clearance and permission of the Prime Minister before going to that meeting. It is because the issue is sensitive. On this issue, the Prime Minister has made two categorical announcements. One is that the Supreme Court directions will be binding on everybody as and when it comes; and the second is that before the Supreme Court gives its directive, he would explore the possibilities to find a solution by talking to other groups and parties before 12th March. But we do not know, and the Lok Sabha whom he is talking to. Has the Lok Sabha no right to know with whom the Prime Minister is having talks?

Under these circumstances, if five Ministers of the same Council of Ministers headed by Shri Vajpayee, share the perception of Shri Ashok Singhal in another parley and hatch a conspiracy to create a situation after 12th March, then it creates not only apprehension but also threat to the secular fabric of our country.

The House cannot be taken for granted and the House cannot be expected to keep quiet and silent. Therefore, the Ministers should explain their conduct in this House in accordance with the provisions of Constitution of India

because they are answerable to Lok Sabha.

While I gave the notice, I purposely sent a copy to hon. Home Minister and hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs so that one of them can come and explain the conduct of the Ministers on an issue, which cannot be wished away and swept away. They are collectively responsible to the House. Since the hon. Prime Minister is abroad, in Japan, it would be the duty of the hon. Home Minister to come to the House and clarify the whole issue at the first available opportunity. But till this date, no official clarification has been made in this House in spite of several news items that have been reported. On the one hand, efforts are on to convince us and the House that nothing will happen. But we still feel since we have reports and information – we may be wrong – to the effect that a section of BJP who identify themselves with VHP and Bajrang Dal, to organise the militant section in a manner to demolish all these efforts. Only yesterday, Shri Karunanidhi, leader of DMK, has made abundantly clear in Chennai that if any attempt is made to construct the temple in the disputed area, then he would oppose it. All kinds of confusion are being created. The Government is not making clear its stand and the conduct of the Ministers.

I demand, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, that hon. Home Minister must clarify the position in this regard on behalf of the Government. Since the Prime Minister is away, the Government should clarify the position, on behalf of the Prime Minister, about the conduct of these five Ministers who are involved in this issue.

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन (फिरोजाबाद) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री प्रदीप रावत, जो इस सदन के सम्मानित सदस्य हैं, नॉर्थ एवेन्यू में उनके निवास पर श्री वेद प्रकाश गोयल, श्री श्रीपाद नाईक, श्रीमती जयवन्ती मेहता, श्री अन्नासाहेब पाटील और बालासाहेब विखे पाटील, इन पांच मंत्रियों और भारतीय जनता पार्टी के कई सांसदों की श्री अशोक सिंघल विश्व हिन्दू परिद के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष के साथ बैठक हुई। लम्बे समय से विश्व हिन्दू परिद के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष और इनके सहयोगी दल बराबर यह ऐलान कर रहे हैं कि हमें सरकार की कोई परवाह नहीं है और हम 12 मार्च से अयोध्या में मंदिर निर्माण का कार्य शुरू कर देंगे। इस बैठक से यह अर्थ निकलता है कि श्री अशोक सिंघल और इन पांच मंत्रियों ने अयोध्या में जो सम्भावित मंदिर बनाए जाने की योजना है, उस सिलसिले में बात की है। यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है। उपाध्यक्ष जी, इस लिहाज़ से भी यह गंभीर मामला है कि खुद गृह मंत्री श्री लालकृष्ण आडवाणी ने कहा है कि अयोध्या प्रकरण के कारण ही वे यहां बैठे हुये हैं। (व्यवधान) उपाध्यक्ष जी, उत्तर प्रदेश में चुनाव होने वाले हैं। यह मामला महत्वपूर्ण है। यह सरकार दंगा कराने का प्रयास कर रही है। (व्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : सुमन जी, आपके अलावा और भी मੈम्बर इस मामले में ऐसोसिएट कर रहे हैं।... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi has already raised this matter.... (Interruptions)

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन : उपाध्यक्ष जी, मैं निवेदन कर रहा था कि इन पांचों मिनिस्टर्स ने लोकसभा अध्यक्ष को लिखकर कहा है कि वे वहां हाज़िर नहीं थे। ये पांचों मिनिस्टर्स इस लोकसभा के माननीय सदस्य हैं। उन पांचों मिनिस्टर्स द्वारा यहां सफाई देनी चाहिये कि वे उस बैठक में उपस्थित थे या नहीं? यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है क्योंकि श्री अशोक सिंघल, कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष के साथ पांचों मिनिस्टर्स उस बैठक में मौजूद थे। (व्यवधान) उन्हें सदन में सफाई देनी चाहिये।

श्री रामदास आठवले : उपाध्यक्ष जी, उन पांचों मिनिस्टर्स को रिज़ाइन करना चाहिये।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One more name is there. Shri Ajoy Chakraborty's notice is there. Let him speak.... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): It is a matter of great concern that the five Minister of the Union Cabinet had assembled in a meeting with the VHP President.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please go to your seat.... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, it is a matter of great concern to the country and also it is a shameful matter that the five Ministers of the Union Cabinet had assembled in a meeting with the VHP President Shri Ashok Singhal as also with other VHP leaders including some BJP and Shiv Sena Members of Parliament. They hatched a plan. They made a conspiracy. They want to construct a *Ram Temple* at the disputed site of *Babri Masjid* violating the order of the Supreme Court. There was a specific direction made by the Apex Court of the country in this regard. They have decided to violate the order of the Supreme Court. It is said that they would build a *Ram Temple* at the disputed site of *Babri Masjid* at *Ayodhya* before 12th March.... (Interruptions)

They have taken oath as per the provisions of the Constitution of India. They have violated the provisions of the Indian Constitution. They are answerable to the nation.... (Interruptions)

So, I demand that the five Ministers of the Union Cabinet should come before the House and explain their conduct. The hon. Home Minister should come before the House and make a statement whether the report, which has appeared in the *Hindustan Times*, is a fact or not. If it is a fact, it is very much shameful, and it is a shocking news to the entire nation. So, they should come and explain their conduct before the House. It is a calculated violation of the decision of the Supreme Court. ... (Interruptions) It is a harmful matter. So, I demand that a statement should be made by the five Ministers and they should apologise.... (Interruptions) The five Ministers should apologise before the nation for their conduct.... (Interruptions) We condemn their act.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have allowed only those Members who have given the notice.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, the five Ministers have violated the provisions of the Constitution of India. This is an unprecedented act. The Home Minister should explain about it.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is concerning the unity and integrity of the country....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They own an explanation to the House. They have violated the provisions of the Constitution....(Interruptions)

कुंवर अखिलेश सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, उन पांचों मिनिस्टर्स को सदन में आकर सफाई देनी चाहिये।(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you are coming to the Well of the House. You know about the consequences....(Interruptions)

श्री राशिद अलवी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने भी नोटिस दिया है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आपका नोटिस कहां है?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Government wants to respond to it. Do you not want to hear that?... (Interruptions)

कुंवर अखिलेश सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक-एक करके उन पांचों मिनिस्टर्स को यहां बुलवाइये।(व्यवधान)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We want that the hon. Home Minister should come to the House and explain the conduct of the Ministers. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. (Interruptions)*

कुंवर अखिलेश सिंह : सर, पांचों मंत्री सदन में आकर स्थिति स्पष्ट करें या फिर इस्तीफा दें।(व्यवधान) उत्तर प्रदेश के चुनाव को लेकर ये लोग राजनीति कर रहे हैं।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. (Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to respond. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Government wants to respond.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seats? I would give a chance to one or two Members to speak.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : All the Five Ministers should be dismissed. ... (Interruptions) The Home Minister should come here to make a statement. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, would you please resume your seats?... (Interruptions)

श्री श्याम बिहारी मिश्र (बिल्हौर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, ये चुनाव में जीत नहीं पा रहे हैं, तभी यहां हल्ला मचा रहे हैं।(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would allow one or two Members to speak, and then, he will respond. ... (Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

श्री श्रीप्रकाश जायसवाल (कानपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश के चुनाव के परिप्रेक्ष्य में जानबूझकर ऐसी हरकतों की जा रही हैं।(व्यवधान) केन्द्र के पांच मंत्री वहां जाकर इस तरीके से काम कर रहे हैं, उनके बारे में सूचना छपी है, इसका सरकार की ओर से खंडन होना चाहिए। वे लोग स्वयं सदन में आकर स्थिति स्पष्ट करें। इतने गंभीर मामले को इतने साधारण तरीके से लिया जा रहा है।(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to respond.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : All the Five Ministers should be dismissed. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The Home Minister should come. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats. Listen to the response of the Government. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : All the Five Ministers should be dismissed. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to respond. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, would you please resume your seats. There are very important items to be taken up in the 'Zero Hour'. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, please go to your seat...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please go to your seat...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would give one or two Members a chance to speak...*(Interruptions)*

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : आडवाणी जी को बुलाइए और वे हमें बताएं। ये इनके बस की बात नहीं है। *â€¦ (व्यवधान)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are very important issues to be taken up in the `Zero Hour'. Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai has given notice on the demolition of Periyar Centre. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to respond. Do you not want to know the response of the Minister? *â€¦ (Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Alvi, please go to your seat. *â€¦ (Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : We demand that all the five Ministers should be dismissed. ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : होम मिनिस्टर को बुलाइए। *â€¦ (व्यवधान)* कहाँ गए आडवाणी जी? *â€¦ (व्यवधान)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We cannot have `Zero Hour' like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 o'clock.

12.44 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.02 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at two minutes past

Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.