

**Title:** Regarding dispersal of BSP rally by the Delhi Police.

18.06 hrs

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): This morning I had assured this august House that I shall ascertain the facts on the reported dispersal of BSP rally by Delhi Police today.

I have been informed that the Bahujan Samaj Party had given a call to march in procession from Feroze Shah Kotla Ground in Central Delhi on the opening day of the Budget Session of the Parliament on 27th May 1998 and gherao it in protest against alleged atrocities on Kumari Mayawati by the UP Police and to highlight the alleged anti-Dalit policies of the BJP-led Government. The BSP had sought permission to take the procession along, Sikandra Road-Barakhamba Road, a route which has heavy traffic.

Shri Phool Chand, President, Delhi Pradesh BSP was informed that the area along Sikandara Road - Barakhamba Road is sensitive and has such heavy traffic that if a procession is taken out along it, it will create serious inconvenience to the general public. Permission, therefore, cannot be given for this route. Instead the procession will be given permission along the standard route for such processions.

After some discussion, Shri Phool Chand accepted a slightly modified route. But when the head of the procession reached the intersection of Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, IP Marg and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, the processionists became restive and insisted on taking the originally asked for Sikandara Road - Barakhamba Road route. They also broke the two cordons on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg set up by the Delhi Police to prevent them from taking the route demanded by them. As the crowd grew violent and started pelting stones, causing injury to policemen and damage to the vehicles and was forcing their way towards denied route, after administering due warning four rounds of tear gas shells were fired followed by mild cane push to disperse the crowd.

As I said this morning when it was said that firing has been resorted to, I said that my information is that there has been no firing and this is true, that there has been no firing though four tear gas shells were lobbed.

Eleven persons from the BSP, 14 policemen and one DHG reportedly received injuries.

A case of rioting has been registered. Forty persons including Shri Kanshi Ram were arrested. Shri Kanshi Ram has, however, been released on bail.

">SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI): There are two issues raised by Kumari Mayawati in the morning. One issue was as to what exactly has happened in Delhi and secondly what happened in Lucknow, especially after the Home Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Government has issued a circular which has practically curbed the basic democratic rights of any individual or any political party? I will just read a few lines about that circular. This is of 19th May, 1998 from the Secretary (Home) to all the District Magistrates/Superintendents of Police of Uttar Pradesh. I quote:-

"District administration of Lucknow have decided not to permit assembly at Ambedkar Park and demonstration at Raj Bhawan, Lucknow proposed by Bahujan Samaj Party (B.S.P.) on 21.5.1998.

Movements of traffic and vehicles be regulated in order that the activities of BSP workers who plan a visit to Lucknow for the proposed assembly cum demonstration can be contained at the point of origin itself. Kindly keep a close watch on the activities of B.S.P. leaders in your district in order that they can be prevented from mobilising party workers for the proposed demonstration. Preventive action to dissuade movement of the BSP leaders/workers/activists be taken wherever necessary. Failure to prevent movement of BSP workers from your district towards Lucknow will be viewed seriously by the State Government."

These are the instructions which are issued by the Secretary (Home) of that particular State. These are the basic rights of any individual in a political party.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I do not want to comment on it.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : There was a demand that the Minister of Home Affairs should make a statement on this also. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the House for one more hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, the sitting of the House is extended for another one hour.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, I am on a point of order. All those who have agreed to extend the time are leaving the House and we who did not agree to the extension up to 7 o' clock are now sitting over here. What is this? My friend has rightly pointed it out. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those Members who have agreed to sit here up to 7 o' clock are going out. May I request them to please take their seats. Shri Rajveer Singh please come to the front and occupy your seat.

19.03 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on

Thursday, May 28, 1998/Jyaistha 7, 1920 (Saka)

