

Title: Regarding allegation by two Maharashtra Ministers about death threats and manhandling by ruling party workers.

12.04 hrs.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very pained to report a very serious and unfortunate incident which took place in Mumbai. Yesterday, Shri Suresh Nawle, the Shiv Sena's Minister of State (Energy) in the Maharashtra Cabinet has informed the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly about attempts to lynch him.

श्री राम नगीना मिश्र (पडरौना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे यहां के समूचे गांव पानी में डूब गए हैं। नारायणी नदी की मुख्य धारा बदल गई। इससे कुशीनगर जनपद प्रभावित हुआ और वहां के लाखों लोग पानी में डूब गए। (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बाद में बोलना।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Prithviraj Chavan. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : He has informed the Maharashtra Assembly in a statement about attempts to lynch him. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing other than the speech of Shri Prithviraj Chavan will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

-----* Not Recorded.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): Sir, I am pained to report a very unfortunate incident that took place in Mumbai. Shri Suresh Nawle, a Shiv Sena Minister of State for Energy in the Maharashtra Cabinet informed the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly about an attempt to lynch him. In his statement made before the House, he says and I quote:

"... Between 1100 and 1230 hours this morning, I was meeting members of some delegations when some 200 to 250 workers entered my house in groups of 25. The constable on duty made a request that only that number of people should go in as could be accommodated in the chamber. But the entire crowd ignored him and walked in. Each member came up and said: 'We know everything that is happening and if you dare to take some sort of a different path, we will shoot you'. (Interruptions) Some of the hon. Members among them broke a number of their shirt buttons and pulled their shirts to show me the weapons that they had in their possession. ... During this incident, I was not sure whether I was sitting in the house of a Minister or in a gangster's den. (Interruptions) I am not worried about the consequences to me. I can only say that if such attempts to enter a Minister's official residence and threaten him can succeed, then, it is a very sad day in the history of Maharashtra. I had mentioned this to the hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :He further says, while all this was happening another Member of the Cabinet, Shri Arjun Khotkar, came to the spot. ... (Interruptions) He further says, "I can only appeal to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the popular Home Minister". ... (Interruptions) In another related incident which happened yesterday, Shri Gulabrao Gavande, who is also a former Minister belonging to the Shiv Sena, had written a letter to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and to other leaders. ... (Interruptions) I will mention what had happened. I will quote from the letter: "During the past eight days I have received four anonymous phone calls. ... (Interruptions) All the phone calls had the same threat to my life namely that "If you work against

the Shiv Sena or if you continue to have links with Ganesh Naik, we will finish you". ... (Interruptions)
However, I did not take this very seriously".

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chavan, this is a State subject.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everyday we are discussing more about the State matters than the Parliamentary matters.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :He further says, "However, today, that is 19.7.1998, at about 10 o'clock, I received an anonymous call where a lot of foul language was used against me and I was told that if I spoke against Shiv Sena or if I went along with Ganesh Naik you will meet your end very fast at which I asked them "who said this to you" to which they replied "we have received orders from the top". ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today, we have got our own business also.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :The Home Minister of Maharashtra assured the three Ministers that protection would be given to them. When he was coming out of the Assembly. ... (Interruptions) There is a report in the Maharashtra Times that the Home Minister was threatened by a Shiv Sena MLA -- his name is given, but I will not take his name -- who asked him, "Why are you giving protection to these traitors"? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Law and order is a State subject.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everyday the hon. members are discussing more about the law and order problem of the States. We have our own business also.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, you may remember the law and order problem of the State of Maharashtra was discussed at length in the last Lok Sabha. ... (Interruptions) We had demanded the dismissal of the Maharashtra Government under Article 356 for serious break down of law and order.... (Interruptions) Shri Indrajit Gupta, the then hon. Minister of Home, went to Mumbai. He met the Chief Minister, Home Minister and Shri Bal Thackeray. At that time he was assured that such incidents would not happen again. ... (Interruptions) But this has happened again. ... (Interruptions)

">SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI): Sir, when the issue came up for discussion in the last Lok Sabha, the then hon. Minister of Home, had informed the House that he had got an assurance from the Maharashtra Government that these things would not happen again. But this has happened again. The hon. Minister of Home is here. He should inform the House as to what exactly happened there. Otherwise, he can send a team to see that the law and order situation is restored in Maharashtra. ... (Interruptions)

">SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): They are so much anxious about the law and order situation in Maharashtra. ... (Interruptions) I understand their anxiety about the law and order situation in that State. ... (Interruptions) Similar situation had arisen when the Congress Party was ruling the State of Maharashtra. During the Congress regime, five MLAs were killed in day broadlight on the streets. ... (Interruptions) The Chief Minister of the Congress Government was even assaulted by their own MLAs.

... (Interruptions) Was that not a law and order problem? ... (Interruptions) It is not just that. The entire House has noticed that in Bihar also, many MLAs had been killed. ... (Interruptions) I am not justifying it. ...

(Interruptions) However, what I am saying is that the Maharashtra Government is capable of taking care of the law and order situation in Maharashtra. ... (Interruption) They have got their MLAs there and if at all this issue is to be raised, the proper forum to raise this would be the floor of the Maharashtra Assembly. ... (Interruptions) Through them, they can raise this issue in the Maharashtra Assembly. ... (Interruptions) My request is that we should stop all these activities in order to see that the House functions well. ... (Interruptions) This is a wastage of the valuable time of the House and it is unnecessary. They should not raise this issue in the Parliament. ... (Interruptions)

श्री लालू प्रसाद (मधेपुरा) : बिहार में कौन सी घटना हो रही है ?

... (व्यवधान)

बिहार की बात को प्रोसीडिंग्स से निकलवाइए।

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (BULDANA): Sir, I will take only one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Hon. Home Minister is going to give a reply. Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (BULDANA): I will take only one minute. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Hon. Home Minister is already on his legs. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that the Home Minister is already on his legs. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rawale, please take your seat.

">

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): श्रीमान् अध्यक्ष महोदय, कल रात्रि को विपक्ष के नेता श्री शरद पवार ने मुझे टेलीफोन करके इस बात से परिचित करवाया कि महाराष्ट्र के किसी मंत्री के निवास स्थान पर लोग इस प्रकार से घुस गए और ये-ये शब्दों का प्रयोग हुआ। उसके बाद मैंने महाराष्ट्र के गृह मंत्री से संपर्क किया और महाराष्ट्र के गृह मंत्री ने मुझे कहा कि वे इस घटना के संदर्भ में पूरी रिपोर्ट आज मुझे भेजेंगे। लेकिन मैं आपसे अनुरोध करूंगा कि इस विषय में आपको निर्णय करना है कि महाराष्ट्र की विधान सभा जब चल रही हो तो ऐसे मसलों की चर्चा हम यहां करें या महाराष्ट्र की विधान सभा में इसकी चर्चा होनी चाहिए। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री विलास मुत्तेमवार (नागपुर) : यह स्थिति अलग है। वहां लॉ एंड ऑर्डर बिल्कुल खत्म हो चुका है।

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (BULDANA): Sir, there is a total break down of the constitutional machinery. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete. Please take your seat. Let him complete.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete, please. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

डा. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (वैशाली) : वहां के मंत्री की जान खतरे में है। ... (व्यवधान) गैर-भाजपा शासित राज्यों की चर्चा तो यहां खूब होती है।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : मुझे विश्वास है कि वहां पर जो कुछ भी हुआ होगा, उसकी अधिकृत जानकारी केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास आज पहुंच जाएगी, लेकिन उस विषय में आपकी सलाह के अनुसार मैं जाऊंगा। आप जो भी निर्णय करेंगे, मैं उसके अनुसार जाऊंगा। ... (व्यवधान)

">SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MIDNAPORE): Sir, a reference was made here a little while ago about an incident which took place in Mumbai last year, when I happened to be the Home Minister. One of the leaders of the Congress Party in the Assembly is Shri Bhujbal whose quarters, the official residence, is just opposite the Secretariat.

His house was ransacked by a gang of people who broke into his house and was looking for him....

(Interruptions)...You can inform us as to who they were.

They were looking for him to beat him up and so on and he somehow managed to escape. Subsequently, I made some enquiries. I personally requested Mr. Bal Thackeray because I was informed by Shri Bhujbal that all those people who had entered his house and ransacked it were Shiv Sainiks. That was not known to me. So, I contacted Shri Bal Thackeray and requested him to spare some time to come and meet me at the Raj Bhawan where I was staying. He was kind enough to come there and very much deplored this incident. He said, "We are already taking steps to arrest some people who have been identified and so on." This was not done on any instructions or directions from us. Some people have taken the law into their own hands. He told, "I assure you that you have no cause for worry or concern. Such an incident will never be repeated here again." Now, we are sorry to hear - of course, subject to whatever report which the Government of Maharashtra gives to Shri Advani - that a similar type of an incident has happened all over again and some Ministers are being threatened that they will be killed and people with arms have broken into his house.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :It has happened for the first time in history. They seek protection.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MIDNAPORE): In conformity with the practice which Shri Advani has been following in respect of some other States, why do we not send a delegation there to find out what is going on there? It is a very strange thing. The Chief Minister, the Home Minister and Shri Bal Thackeray had all assured me that such a thing would not be allowed to happen. If it is happening again, then I agree that this matter should be discussed essentially not in this House but in the Maharashtra Assembly. But since it has happened and has been brought to our notice, I think the least the hon. Home Minister can do is to send an official team or a BJP team to Maharashtra to find out why these people are behaving like this and who is responsible for it.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): They have threatened to kill the Home Minister....(Interruptions)

">SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Speaker Sir, so far as the incident is concerned, it has appeared in the Press and some hon. Members particularly from Maharashtra have raised it. I certainly deplore if it is correct and it must be condemned. But I also agree with the Home Minister because I have been saying it over the years in several Houses that such a matter is not fit to be raised on the floor of this House. And Shri Advani sitting there was supporting us. Now, suddenly, by switching over sides, he has switched over so many things, that is, the selective applicability of the good rule. I should say that it is incumbent on the House not to discuss such matters. He is applying it selectively now. According to him, the Opposition says that that rule cannot be applied to them because he has to prop up his rickety coalition. The very seating arrangement shows what a thing is happening in this country, with all respect to the hon. Members here. Therefore, I would expect

that the leader of his stature and eminence will not break every rule, provisions of the Constitution of India and every convention just because he finds some difficulty in managing his allies and now, we will be lectured upon that we should not discuss this matter. This is not right. I agree with him to that extent. I humbly request you that every matter relating to the State Government, particularly law and order matters are being discussed here. Teams are being sent; threats are being given. Although you are committed not to apply Article 356 and have even been asking for its deletion as we had demanded, now that is being threatened. Is this the way the country will proceed? This is the way to divide this country and create tension inside the country. The situation now is that you have your own party-mate or ally under the leadership of Shri Sirpotdar.

He is representing that party here. Even they are alleged to be threatening the sitting Ministers.

Therefore, I request that this matter should be looked into very seriously by the appropriate authorities. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :What has been reported here? ... (Interruptions) He is much more knowledgeable about this than I am. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete please.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :Kindly remember that he should not interfere into the affairs of the States, particularly about the law and order situation. ... (Interruptions) He should not abuse the powers that he is now having in trying to destabilise the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Advani, would you like to respond?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: No. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (PERIYAKULAM): Sir, I rise here to protest against the Government's inordinate delay in notifying the scheme formulated by it. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI): Sir, the Minister of Home Affairs is here. He is keeping quiet. He must respond. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: As I have already said, I would be willing to abide by your directions. If you wish and in response to what has been said by the other hon. Members of this House, I will come to the House... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Why should he require permission of the Chair to act?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Why not?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT :This is not correct. ... (Interruptions) A statement is made on the floor of the House.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR :That is a crucial matter. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am sure, this matter would be discussed in the Maharashtra State Assembly today. But if you want, I can certainly come to the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI): May I just make a submission? You are the Home Minister of India. You should not place the hon. Speaker in an awkward situation to seek his directions.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT :Yes; it is wrong.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER :Therefore, you have to decide. ... (Interruptions) Do not place the Speaker in an embarrassing situation.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I shall come to the House and say what has been reported to me by the State Government in this respect.
