

Are the Members of VHP, RSS and Bajrang Dal ready to accept Supreme Court's verdict? Is the Government ready to make them abide by the Court's verdict? Members of VHP are their own people. We continued our agitation to change the name of Marathwara University into Baba Saheb Ambedkar University for 14 years and whenever We violated the law we were put behind the bars. However, Members of VHP and Shri Ramchandra Paramhans were not arrested because Government was having an apprehension that their arrest would create resentment among against their Government and all Hindus will become anti-Government.

The Government was having an apprehension that it will fall on 16th. However, we were feeling that when the Government fell on 16th, our party will be in power on 17th. As the present Government did not fall our party failed to come into power. The issue is not to be in power. They may continue to run the Government. We are not interested to come into power. We all have seen Aamir Khan leading the Indian Cricket team in the movie 'Lagaan' everybody felt that players were untrained, they would not be able to win the match. But in the end Aamir Khan's team won it. Similarly, the present Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is winning for the last 3 years. People feel that this team is not good but still they are winning for the last 3 ½ years. We have failed to win because of our internal bickerings in the party. Therefore, we are not going to win in the present circumstances. They will continue to win till 30 allied parties and 300 Members are with them. We are trying to settle our internal disputes and in the coming future we will definitely win the elections. Till then the present Government can continue. The Government should make efforts to restore peace in the country.

With these words, I conclude.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some important issues have been raised during the discussion. Various views have been put forth. I do not want to repeat them. We heard the speeches of two lawyers on the role of Attorney General. The opinion given by Shri Soli Sorabjee as an advocate has been mentioned here. It is a matter of dispute whether he had the right to give his opinion or not however, it was necessary to make the people of the country aware of the reality.

Discussion was also held regarding a judgement given by Supreme Court in 1994. However, the judgement given

is acceptable to all. It will be implemented and it should be. Any judgement can not be rejected only because of difference of opinion else it can be referred to a higher bench of Supreme Court for consideration to obtain a fresh decision on the matter. But till then the verdict given by Supreme Court should be accepted and followed by all.

Regarding the statement given by Vishv Hindu Parishad that the acceptance of Shiladan by PMO official is the acknowledgement of the Government for the construction of temple, I would like to tell my friend from Telgu Desham Party that we have clarified our stand in this regard. The issue is subjective.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The hon. Prime Minister did not contradict.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The hon. Member is ready to listen to them not me. ...*(Interruptions)* Vishwa Hindu Parishad had said that as the Shiladan has been accepted, they will abide by the court's verdict They will not force to change the verdict. The discussion between Saints, seers and Maulanas etc. was held on the same basis. Some former judges of Supreme Court also met Shankracharyaji. In that meeting also they decide that the Courts' verdict would be the final verdict. We can also go ahead on the advice of Shri Shankracharyaji. Therefore, there should not be any misunderstanding that construction work of temple has been started. Though shilas have been kept there but those shilas would be used only when Supreme Court gives its ruling in the favour of Hindus otherwise not. If Supreme Court's verdict goes against the Hindus or if it favours Muslims, there is a way out mentioned in Supreme Court's verdict regarding the facilities to be provided and to resolve the dispute.

The decision is to be taken by the Court. It is not right that someone interfere in it.

There has been a lot of discussion on secularism. Somnath Babu said that he is standing like a 'Kapatik' on the dead body of a secularism.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I said this yesterday.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : That kapatik is even standing today. A very dramatic language has been used, secularism is not going to die.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We also want that it should not die.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : No one will die. Before us also the country was secular and it will remain secular in future also. This country is secular not due to some party. This is a part of our tradition, and the colour of our blood. When the opposition was in power then also the country was secular for ours is pluralistic society wherein the people of diverse views live.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : 'Tunde-Tunde Sarswati'

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If I mentioned one, he spoke of the other. Now the views differed. I had recited half the sloka and he completed it. Secularism is in fact, a way of life.

Not only in our country, growing fanaticism in the entire world is a warning for us. If it does not remain confined to its limits and if the loyalties of the people does not remain confined to limits then it could take a serious turn and can cause a law and order problem. All of us should think over it. Only reciting secularism is not enough. Secularism cannot become selective secularism. If an effort to do so is made then the entire concept of secularism will be in danger but I am sure that such a situation will not arise in the country.

I have to give a clarification. It is being repeatedly said that I had assured the Vishwa Hindu Parishad that the temple would be constructed on so and so date or a decision to that effect would be taken. I had only said that efforts will be made in this regard and I was hoping that probably some solution would be found by the month of March but it did not happen and I held both the parties guilty in that unless they assume some flexibility and make way for mutual exchange and march ahead on the basis of mutual goodwill and harmony, no solution could be found. Hence to repeatedly say that I have encouraged them is not proper, they have not gone ahead because of me but due to the support of the people they are proceeding further. Please think about the 14th. Today we are meeting here in a different ambience and are holding talks but there was a pressurising situation on the 14th. I don't want to discuss whether it was right or wrong. An atmosphere of fear, apprehension and uncertainty prevailed. We have yet to come out of Gujarat crisis and a new controversy has arisen. Hence everybody heard a sigh of relief when the shiladaan passed off without violating the court verdict. Status quo was not threatened, 'Shila' was received and it is fully safe and as I said that shila will be utilised only on the day of the decision on the original suits. Shila is not going to be of any utility, in between hence I don't see any

reason for the spread and provocation of fanaticism in the country. Everybody should co-operate in it. I am confident that today's discussion will be fruitful and the country will proceed in the right direction.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He has not replied the point that deals with the matter he had sent to Shatrughan Singh from P.M.O. ...*(Interruptions)* That was the real question and its reply has not come. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : There is no reply in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I have not repeated the subjects on which my colleague Arun Jaitley had thrown light. It is of no use to further analyse a thing already analysed. ...*(Interruptions)* whatever has been analysed, has been analysed minutely. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The next two items in the Order Paper are very small and on Monday there will be ample opportunity for everybody to participate in the debate on the Prevention of Terrorism Bill. So, if you agree we will finish these two items now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it could be on one condition. On Monday, the Zero Hour should be allowed, at least, for half-an-hour before POTO is taken up.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, the order given by the Supreme Court and the Chair should be accepted without any condition. He is putting conditions for the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : On this condition, we can agree to this proposal.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : No conditions, please.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have a number of important issues. We could not raise them because of this reason.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I leave it to the Chair to decide whether the Zero Hour should be for half-an-hour or one hour.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right.