

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident that took place in the House yesterday makes us hang our heads in shame, protests have been made in the House earlier also but all limits were crossed yesterday. It is quite natural to have difference of opinion in a democracy. There is a way to express this difference of opinion. We claim to be the largest democracy of the world. The incident that took place yesterday disproves our claim. Democracy can survive only when there is discipline, dignity and decorum otherwise it will turn into a mobocracy.

If an example of dignified behaviour is not set in this House and the Parliament and if its member do not behave in a dignified manner, one can imagine the likely impact of such a behaviour in the State legislative assemblies. Democracy means the rule of the majority and abiding by the views of the majority. Those in minority should have the right to express their views but they should accept the fact that they are in minority and when they muster majority in future, their views will prevail. If those in minority decide that they will not go by the wishes of those in majority and will not allow the House to function, the temporary friction that is likely to follow is understandable.

As Comrade Indrajit Gupta has commented that the sittings of the House were boycotted for so many days at a stretch but it should be in limit. Yesterday, all limits were crossed. I do not wish to go into detail. I have been associated with the Parliament for more than 40 years but I have never witnessed such a painful and distressing scene. After what happened yesterday, two party leaders Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Lalu Prasad tendered apology. They say that they sought an apology publically. The House should accept it. We also accept it. I will ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : They are tendering apology but they are criticising also. This is not good. You should say something in this regard.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I agree with you. If the apology comes from the heart, it should be taken as utmost penance. I would ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs not to press the motion moved and the House should carry on with its work.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, in response to my observations today on the conduct of some Members yesterday, particularly the conduct of hon. Members Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jahanabad) and Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta and in response to the motion moved today by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Lalu Prasad

and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav have tendered unqualified apologies.

In view of this, I seek the leave of the House to ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to withdraw his motion for the suspension of Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jahanabad) and Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta. Before the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs rises on his feet, let me place on record my compliments to the Leaders in the House who have reaffirmed their commitment to help maintain the dignity of the Chair and the sovereignty of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : But there were others who were not allowed to reiterate it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : We have not been heard at all.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the unqualified and unconditional apologies tendered in the House, I seek leave of the House to withdraw the motion moved by me for the suspension of the two Members, Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jahanabad) and Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion moved by Shri Madan Lal Khurana be withdrawn?

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

12.47 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications under Border Security Force Act, 1968

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968 :

- (i) The Border Security Force (Seniority, Promotion and Superannuation of Officers) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 273(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 1998.
- (ii) The Border Security Force, Chief Law Officer and Law Officers (Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 274(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 1998.