

[Shrimati Sonia Gandhi]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Prime Minister to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Sir, I would like to submit my point in a minute.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, nothing should go on record. We should not create a new precedent...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

12.33 hrs.

*Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members then left the House.*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji, you are not aware that what you are doing.

...(Interruptions)

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAJEE)**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the session is coming to end. It is a tradition that at the conclusion of the session we express hope and aspirations for the future and also reiterate the achievements of the Session. It has become a tradition. But to make sure that it should not become a ritual only, therefore, there is a need to ponder upon the fact that the session, which starts in a good atmosphere and should conclude in the same manner. Why the session should not run smoothly and why cannot we maintain the harmony during the proceedings of the Parliament.

Parliament is the place to hold discussions where the decisions are taken by the majority, but if the business of the Parliament is hindered, then it hits the functioning of the democracy. Tehelka episode is a very serious incident. We have taken it very seriously. It is a warning and a challenge to all the parties and to the entire House. We were interested in holding discussions on this issue.

We were even prepared to create the environment for discussions. But my problem is that since my resignation was being demanded so I had to seek your intervention. I am a Member of Parliament since last forty years. I never had listened to such abusive language but this time foul language was used. Is this abusive language going to become the part of Parliament practice? The situation of confrontation had arisen. There can be no greater challenge than this for the biggest democracy of the world. Even then, I wrote a letter to Soniaji and tried my best to find any possible way out. I am happy that you have sorted out the matter by your interference but it should not become practice to drag you in each such situation. Treasury benches and opposition can reach a solution by sitting together but it is possible only when the integrity of other party should not be suspected. When we suggested to form JPC at that time our proposal was not accepted. Therefore, we appointed a commission. Commission and JPC cannot run together. All aspects are to be considered and if after the discussion, the House comes to a conclusion that through majority or unanimously a Committee should be constituted, even for that we had said that our mind is open but open mind does not mean empty mind. We too have our norms and we are following those norms. We also expect that each one of us should also follow common norms.

I was abused in the House. Nobody had uttered a word that this is an unparliamentary act and these kind of words should not be allowed to be used. But still I am prepared to forget that entire episode. The only thing I want is that whenever we meet in Parliament, the business of the House should run smoothly. If we are in minority, then you remove us. Our earlier Government had fallen by one vote, we were defeated because of one vote. When we were defeated, we resigned. We did not create any hassle, but if in the name of morality we are asked to resign then there are many cases where you cannot evoke one sided morality it have to be alike for both sides. But whatever happened was really painful. I never came to Parliament for this. I had waited for 40 long years to reach here. In Ramayana, Lord Rama had said that I am not afraid of death but I am afraid of ignominy—

"no bhito maranadasyi, kewalam dooshito yash"

But I do not think that anybody's honour can be protected here. I do not say that in this episode only one side is to blame, here both sides are to be blamed. We are also responsible and we are ready to accept it but for that proper environment should be created. If the policies are made, proposals are brought forward and discussions are held only to ruin someone's image then

\*Not recorded.

what exactly we are doing. We are engaged in ruining the image of each other and consequently the image of our country is being spoilt. We claim to be the biggest democracy of the world but what is heppening? How the world is looking at us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for intervening. However, we are in favour of sorting out the problems through bilateral talks but sometimes we need the third party's intervention and you are neutral between the Government and the opposition. You have tried to find out a solution and it became a reality. I hope that next time when we meet in the ensuing session and if your intervention is required between the Government and opposition, then such efforts need to be made on your part that no such incidents reoccur in the future and we

may be able to maintain the dignity of the Parliament and protect our democracy.

12.40 hrs.

## NATIONAL SONG

*(The National Song was played.)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

12.41 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*

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