

*Threat to democracy as a
result of political murders &
criminalisation of politics as in Meham*

adjournment motion. After they raised it, when the Home Minister Mr. Mufti wanted to respond, I naturally thought that the House would agree that in order to have an orderly debate, there would be no objection to Mr. Mufti responding to the apprehensions or issues that were raised by the hon. Members like Mr. Khurana and others. There are serious objections. Points of order were raised. I have gone through Kaul and Shakhthar. For the benefit of the hon. Members, I should read it out:

"After leave of the House to the moving of an adjournment motion has been granted and hour fixed for discussion, the Speaker has to allow the motion to be moved, except where some new situation has arisen due to which discussion on the motion cannot take place without infringing the Rules. It is, however, open to a Member not to move the motion even though leave of the House to its moving has been granted and time for its discussion fixed. Commencement of the discussion on the motion is normally not delayed beyond the scheduled hour unless it is absolutely necessary to do so, e.g. to complete a division already in progress, or with the consent of the mover."

So, the rules are clear. I think I should not infringe the rules. I would call upon the Home Minister to respond... (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I would call upon the Home Minister to respond to the apprehensions which have been aired by the hon. Members from Delhi, just immediately after the adjournment motion is over.

Now Mr. Sathe.

13.05 hrs.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Threat to democracy as a result of political murders and criminalisation of politics as in Meham

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): I beg to Move: "That this House do now adjourn."

The whole nation is concerned with what happening in Meham. I have no doubt in my mind that you and the entire House are very much worried about the democratic process of our country, which is one of the best processes in the world. Since Independence, everyone knows it, we can take legitimate pride that our nation has been able to establish a democratic functioning of Government. Since Independence, we have been holding elections in a free and fair manner, by and large, apart from certain aberrations that might have taken place. The world community has congratulated India for being an ideal democratic nation. We are having the largest number of electorate in the world; it is larger than some of the populations of larger democracies and the biggest democracies in the world. In this context, when we consider the situation that is now developing, the trends which we see, we will find that here is a State which is close to the Capital of India where very recently a deliberate political attempt was made to scuttle and crush political opposition. A candidate has stood up against a particular person. I am not going to name him who has the authority to govern the State. If such a person himself is also a candidate in Meham, if you find suddenly that booths are captured—everyone knows about it—firing is taking place, more than 50 persons are killed, then the Election Commission has to

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say that the whole thing is politically motivated. The election itself had to be counter-manded earlier. If you reward the paper you will find that the entire nation has been shocked to hear about it. A particular political authority wanted more or less to capture the power of the state; it wanted to continue to be in power and authority to totally destroy the democratic process of election because it was crucial for him, for that authority—that particular election in Meham; it was crucial for the continuance of that authority in power as the Head of the State Government.

13.09 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Therefore, a total anarchic orgy of murder was let loose in the town of Meham last time. In this background, for the last few days we had been thinking that would be the scenario if the election which was counter-manded earlier was to be held again. This is important, to note. Although the election was to take place in Meham again and the main candidate was the same candidate who was to contest the persons in authority, what did the person in authority do? He decided to contest also from another constituency, Darba Kalan. Now, let us see. He is trying to make it sure intelligently that he can win from Darba Kalan. If it is risky to contest from Meham he takes enough precaution to see that he contests from another safer place. And then, to make it further sure, what happens? All right, fair enough. You declare to the world that as that authority has been saying, that "Unless I win in Meham by a certain number I will resign". I will not only resign. "Mein Sanyas Loonga Rajnatey se" This is what he had been saying.

Sir, now kindly in this background, see what happened. Out of 29 candidates in Meham one independent candidate is murdered. Now kindly see.

AN HON. MEMBER: Security is given to everybody.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Security, although it is there, we know fully well what has happened in Meham. Although greater security is given to people in Darba Kalan actually here this independent candidate has no security; and this person knowing fully well—although it had appeared in the newspapers also that it was the apprehension—the person gets murdered and what are the circumstances of the murder?

He had, it is alleged, had a dinner with certain members of the ruling party there. That person was murdered. And it is alleged—these are the facts which the Home Minister will get and try to tell us—and surprisingly while returning from that place where he had had his dinner, how come that that person gets murdered?

AN HON MEMBER: Security is there!

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Where was the security? Where were the security people? If there were security people, see the type of murder. This is what is reported. He has been hit behind in his neck at close quarters. That means, deliberately he was in someones custody and cold-bloodedly that person was shot from behind, in the neck. Could that have happened if the security people were there with him? Armed people, if they were there—that is what you provide normally during such incidents and cases—this would not have occurred. I am surprised that a murder of this type should take place, of a candidate.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. BEGA RAM (Ganganagar): Have you forgotten how many people you got killed in your time? I have this clipping; please have a look. It is only today that you have started feeling that democracy is being murdered or this is happening or that is happening...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not like this. You will also get an opportunity. Please do not get up and speak out of turn. It is not good.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, the seriousness of the debate gets lost when such interruption takes place. I have not named anybody. All I am saying is, kindly consider the situation in which a murder takes place of a candidate in a democratic election. Sir, you are yourself a lawyer and you have been a successful lawyer. The basic principle of criminal law is animus. What can be the motive behind a particular criminal act? Who can be benefited by the criminal act? These are the two things which are normally questioned and asked in every crime. Here was a crime. By countermanding of this election, who was to benefit; who have been benefited? Would the person, who is contesting and who, everybody knows in the country, is likely to win, be the person—that person is being made the accused—or would the person who is contesting from another constituency and feels that he will surely win from that constituency and if this election is countermanded, it is a safe go for him, be the person? Who will benefit? Therefore, the finger points straightaway of accusation against that authority which is likely to benefit by this murder and by countermanding of this election.

My submission is this. This is a clear example and instance of a political murder, not only of a candidate, because candidates do die or have accident or earlier murders have taken place. I am not saying so. Here is a situation where an authority is involved, an authority which has held an important place is involved. If murders are committed allegedly, now the whole circumstances show, to benefit such an authority, what will happen to democracy and will democracy be safe? Today it is in Haryana. Tomorrow it may be anywhere in the country. All those who are in authority then can start indulging in similar

things. If that happens, can democracy survive? That is the question, which has to be considered.

Sir, we hold no brief for anybody. Let the guilty be found and let there be—as has been expressed by all sides of the House—a Parliamentary Committee. Because here the concern is of saving democracy in this country; Parliamentary democracy in this country; electoral process, free and fair elections in this country. Therefore, I think, all sides here are feeling concerned about it and if a proper Parliamentary Committee consisting of representatives is there, let it go into this question of finding out what had happened in Meham. If we can nip this tendency of murder of democracy, emasculation of the electoral process that is happening, in the bud by taking cognisance, by Parliament itself showing seriousness and taking whole of this responsibility, then, I think, probably we will be setting a good precedent and we will know ourselves what had happened, what the trend is, and how it can be halted irrespective of which are the parties concerned and which are the authorities concerned. Therefore, I would beg to submit that let the entire House consider this question of Meham in this context, in its seriousness and its implication to the democratic process of our country. This is not a party issue. We must rise above partisan considerations and we must ensure that democracy survives because if democracy survives, we all survive. This nation can survive only if there is a strong democracy—not only survives internally but also be able to face external aggressions if only within the country our democratic process survives. Therefore, I would beg of the entire House, all sections of the House, to approach this question from that angle. You must have seen my entire speech I have not made it a partisan issue. A debating point can be scored. One can make allegations against this party or that party, etc. etc. We can go on digging the grave. But that approach will not help solve the problem. My submission to the House is, here is an instance where a deliberate attempt to murder democracy is being let loose and, therefore, we have our-

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selves now to take cognisance of it and see to it that the democratic process survives.

With these words, I commend the Adjournment Motion to the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Sathe said and as the newspapers reported, a heinous murder has been committed in Meham. We too believe that in a democratic system, the murder of a candidate is a very bad thing. It is a threat to democracy. But let me state the facts behind the murder. Amir Singh was an independent candidate from Meham. He hailed from the same village as Anand Singh Dangi, Amir Singh had complained to the Chief Election Commissioner that Dangi had threatened him with dire consequences after the farmer's election symbol was changed from pigeon to umbrella. Two years ago, Amir Singh's elder brother, Pratap Singh had contested the Panchayat election. He was instrumental in making Dangi's candidate lose his deposit in the elections. It is a case of old enmity. In February, when the Meham bye elections took place, Amir Singh filed an FIR under Section 360 to the effect that his village inhabitants came to his house and sprayed bullets all over. I was in Meham yesterday. The statements of the residents here, the entire discussion in public on the murder is totally different from what has been appearing in newspapers. The murder of Amir Singh and the election process in Meham was vitiated. Our Chief Minister Chautala and our State's Home Minister had stated 10 days ago that he was being framed. Reporters asked him as to why he was contesting from two constituencies. He had stated in advance that his adversaries were determined to get the bye-election postponed. That they would prevent him from entering the Vidhan Sabha. That they are murderous of democracy, has been amply proven by the people of Haryana. Congress candidates Roop Singh Buda said it in the village and his statement was cited in local

newspapers—that he paid rupees 20 lakh to Anand Singh Dangi and that the responsibility of the murder that had taken place on February 28, lay entirely with Dangi. The Congress candidate went from village to village proclaiming that he gave Dangi a sum of rupees 30 lakh and that the latter had a hand in the murder committed on February, 28. This fact was also published by newspapers. Shamsheer Singh Surjewala had also announced this fact in a public meeting. Today, Shri Sathe is saying that an influential person misuses his powers to continue as a Chief Minister. I would like to inform Shri Sathe that the election in Meham was totally one-sided. The Congress was never in the contention in Meham, Ambala or Darba Kalan. The Congress is dead in Haryana. The incident in Meham was a grave conspiracy. The FIR was lodged in the names of four persons i.e. Anand Singh Dangi, his brother Dharampal, Kallu and Rajendra Singh. All the four belong to the same village. We agree that the incident that had taken place there was deplorable. I am sure Mr. Sathe will agree. He has asked for an enquiry. I would like to inform him that the Haryana State police is already looking into the matter. (*Interruptions*)...As far as I know, the investigations started after the FIRs were filed. The entire case is before the people. Mr. Sathe said the situation is going out of hand, just because of one person. This is not true. I would like to inform all my colleagues that the Haryana state Minister, Mr. Sampat Singh had written to all the newspaper editors inviting them to Meham, so that they could see with their own eyes how the election was proceeding and how some people were creating difficult conditions. If I place these statements on the Table of the House, everyone will be surprised. Dangi said openly that he had a hand-gun and that he would not allow Chautala to contest or win from Meham, whatever be the cost. If the election had been peaceful, I can say with confidence that Chautala would have won and Dangi would have lost his deposit. Dangi did not campaign for more than two days. The situation of the Congress was more or less the same. Our workers went from house to house seeking votes. It is not correct to blame the

Chief Minister. Charges have also been levelled against my colleague Mr. Abhay Singh. An Inquiry Committee has been set up to investigate the Meham incident. When we set up that Committee, the Congress leaders had opposed it. But today, the same leaders are demanding an inquiry why don't you face the inquiry?...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Bhajan Lal knows where the shots were fired. The entire strategy was prepared by him. A person who had been the Chief Minister of Haryana for a short duration, as also involved in it. He had threatened me in this House that if he had been in Hissar, from where I got election, he would have seen to it that I lost. This kind of threatening does not behove a member of this House. A person who indulges in such threats can go to any extent, whatever be the nature thereof. I would like to tell Mr. Sathe that Mr. Chautala will become an MLA. He will be returned not only from Daribakalan, but also from Meham.

The incident can be attributed to a conspiracy hatched by the people who are not able to tolerate Chaudhury Chautala and Chaudhury Devi Lal's meteoric rise. The Congress party is losing its hold on the country. It is definitely involved in the Meham incident. The Congress party aided and abetted Dangi openly on February 27. In the AICC meeting and in newspapers, the Congress party had come out to make a statement that it had decided to support Anand Singh Dangi, Congress Leader pleaded with the residents of Meham not to vote for the Congress candidate or for Om Prakash Chautala, but to cast their votes in favour of Dangi. Hence, it is evident that the entire conspiracy was well planned. It was a five month conspiracy and crores of rupees were spent on it. The Congress members sitting on the opposite benches are responsible for it. Their own people have said that the money came from the party coffers. We provided security to everyone. Mr. Sathe said that security had been provided in Darbakalan, it has been reported in yesterday's newspapers that the candidates are fed up with this security. The Congress candidate had made a statement and complained to our SP on the phone that he did not need any security. If

your own people are involved in such conspiracies and if they refuse to accept security. What can the state Government do? Amir Singh had also been provided security guards. No one would have been denied security in Haryana, but the whole conspiracy had been hatched to give Chaudhury Om Prakash Chautala and Chaudhury Devi Lal a bad name. I knew Shri Amir Singh, personally, he was a very good man. He was only 34. My colleagues say that Chaudhury Om Prakash Chautala created these incidents to remain Chief Minister. The House knows that the trends reported in newspapers just before the election favoured Chautala overwhelmingly. Anand Singh Dangi and the Congress candidate were not in the contention. That is the reason why they hatched this conspiracy. The FIR was lodged by his elder brother and yet people dismiss it as fictitious. If the Haryana police had done something wrong, the criticism indulged in by these people would have had some relevance. But here we have members of the Victim's family naming four persons. How is the state government to be blamed? The Congress party has been hatching conspiracies in Haryana since last four months. They want to gain a foothold. Any kind of help is welcome. To achieve that end, they are willing to go to any extent. Today, the people of Meham know that there is no tension in the constituency. If there is nay tension, it is in the minds of my colleagues sitting here on the front benches. They do not know how they will contest the coming elections in Haryana. Yet they speak of...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi): Two people died in the firing at Dangi's residence.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Please listen. The firing at Dangi's residence.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (Faridabad): Please continue to speak. We are listening.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: You shall have to listen.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You shall also lis-

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ten to us, after you have finished. Do not run away.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: These people have admitted that adequate security arrangements were made in Darbakalan. Security was also provided in Meham, but they blame the State Government. The Congress candidate says the state government has ordered the police to keep track of his movements. Their intentions are clear. They cannot enter the area, so with the help of newspapers they are defaming out leaders and the state government. Today, there is not a single region in Haryana where there is tension or riots. Yet, my colleagues Bhajan Lal says that firing took place... (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. We have heard you.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Are you saying that Amir Singh had not asked for security?

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: We provided him security.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: He died inspite of that security?

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Yesterday, Dangi himself had fired on the police in his village Matina. There have been clashes between Dangi's men and the police. Today, they say that Anand Singh Dangi is helpless, that he is an honest man.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Jai Prakash, this is a delicate matter... (*Interruptions*) Please listen. This is a very delicate matter.

SH JAI PRAKASH: I agree, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First listen to me. There should not be anything of this sort during the elections. That is what we are discussing here.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen

first, then speak. Names of persons who cannot defend themselves in this House should not be mentioned during the discussion. Please avoid mentioning names.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: I am not taking any names.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You must make your statement without mentioning any names, in a very sensible manner.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: This is my first term in the House. (*Interruptions*) He mentioned names too.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, No, Mr. Sathe did not mention any name.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Yes, he did.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sathe did not say anything against anyone.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Let me continue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do so by all means. But please do not criticise someone who is not here to defend himself in the House.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: When we learnt that Amir Singh had been murdered in Mundal village... (*Interruptions*) When people came to know in the morning that Amir Singh had been murdered, thousands of them collected there. Thousands collected in Meham. Everyone said that the entire conspiracy had been hatched to prevent Chaudhury Om Prakash Chautala from getting into the Assembly. When Amir Singh was cremated, thousands paid him their tributes. Congress Leaders also went there after the cremation. But, though the self-styled Haryana Panchayat Sangarsh Committee Chief Anand Singh Dangi was in the village. (*Interruptions*)

ONE HON. MEMBER: Let a case be filed against him.

SHRI JAI PARKASH: It is for the police to register a case. Who knows, your name may also come up.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever Mr. Kalpnath Rai has said, will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL (Tonk): The way Mr. Bhajan Lal is laughing, it seems he is happy on his murder.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is wrong too. You don't have any right to say such things.

[English]

You don't take this kind of liberty. It is not correct.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PARKASH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to state that the people of Meham constituency want the culprits to be nabbed without delay. Amir Singh's brother has given the names of four persons and an FIR has been lodged to that effect in Mundal village. When the police went to arrest the culprits, they were prevented. Is there any precedent that the police go to a person's house to arrest him, and are fired upon. This is what happened in that village. All this is attributable to the elections. An FIR has been lodged and all the residents of the locality want the culprits to be arrested. But when the police reached there; the police party had to face bullets. Why are they avoiding arrest? They should come to the police and prove their innocence.

The state police acted promptly. The statements of the people of the other party reveal as to who are actually involved in the murder. People had dismantled their tents and left for home by 5 O'clock. We came to know of Amir Singh's murder only at 9.30 a.m. the next day. If these people are innocent, they would have attended Amir Singh's funeral. In our village, presence at funerals is a must. People make it a point to attend the funeral of even their enemies. It is a custom. Everyone agrees that the people mentioned in the FIR should be arrested. Those who assaulted policemen with guns and those who tried to create disturbances in Haryana should be punished severely. Those who support or assist such elements should be condemned.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the subject of this adjournment motion is no doubt of very great importance for the future of Parliamentary system of democracy that we have adopted in this country, and we cannot but most strongly condemn what has happened in Haryana, in a place, I think, called Meham town.

Sir, it clearly appears that there has been a cold blooded murder and it was obviously a premeditated attack that was made, and naturally we are worried. Since this country has adopted a parliamentary system of Government and the election is the very basis of a parliamentary system of Government, we must see that the electoral process remains undiluted, uninterfered with and the people of this country are allowed to exercise their franchise in a free and fair manner which necessarily also presupposes that the candidates who take part in the election process are allowed to project their views and place their policies and programmes before the people, and at least such interference and ghastly occurrences should not take place which halts the very process of electioneering in the country. Sir,

[Sh. Somnath Chatterjee]

I am sure there are no two opinions about it. At the same time I cannot but express my concern as to what is happening in this House. Once we take up an issue like this for discussion, let me make it very clear that I am strongly condemning what has happened there on behalf of my party and myself, and I am showing my greatest concern about the future of electioneering in this country. But what is happening in this House so far as this motion being discussed here is concerned? Mr. Sathe being an experienced parliamentarian has not taken a name, but he has not minced matters. Has anybody any doubt as to who is his target? Is there any doubt about who is the target of the hon. Member who spoke from the side of Janata Dal? Sir, can it be that charges will be traded and counter charges will be traded in connection with a murder? We want that most stringent measures should be taken and the culprits should be apprehended and most serious punishment has to be given to them. It is a clear case of murder and from what I find from the newspapers is that it is a premeditated, calculated, cold-blooded murder. But, Sir, what can we do here? We are all concerned about election, the purity of election. Mr. Sathe said that election in this country has been always free and fair.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: By and large.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Now, he qualified it saying 'by and large'. Is this the record of this country's election? That is why when a joint meeting of all the political parties was held recently which was called by the hon. Prime Minister to discuss about the electoral reforms in this country, all parties had expressed their apprehensions, expressed their concern as to how politics is being criminalised, how electoral process is being polluted and how violence has not only crept in but has overtaken the electoral process in this country. So, a committee was formed and the main concern now is, how to stop the criminalisation of politics and how to stop electoral process being interfered with, in a manner as it has been happening in this

country. I make it very clear; as we condemn this murder, we also do not condone hypocrisy. We cannot appreciate the attitude of righteousness which is being adopted by some hon. Members in this House.

Sir, what had happened in this country? Since the Constitution had come into force, how many elections have been completely free and fair? Can we forget as to what happened in West Bengal in 1972? Can anyone forget in this country? At that time, the entire electoral process was subverted. The people were not even allowed to cast their votes. In 1972, in the constituency of Mr. Jyoti Basu, the election was over by 10 O'clock when more than hundreds of people had cast their votes.

SHRIDINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): Sir, there are more serious issues. Why should he bring in a matter which happened in 1972?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What happened in Tripura during the last Assembly election? In 1977, I was a witness there, when Mr. Dilip Chakraborty, who was a candidate in the Parliamentary election from South Calcutta was personally attacked.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): Sir, I am on a point of order. While admitting the Adjournment Motion, the rules were read out and the motion that has been admitted is on a matter of recent occurrence. Can this debate be used to rake up issues of 1971 and 1972? (*Interruptions*) Kindly see the motion read by the Speaker. It is about the recent occurrences in Meham. Can we start talking about 1971 and 1972? If the CPI (M) loses an election it is wrong and if wins an election, is it right?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, who had sent the Army to Tripura during the last election? Is sending the Army just before the election in consonance with our democratic traditions? I would like to know. What happened in Amethi?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Chatter-

jee, the time is very limited. So, please do not increase the ambit of your discussion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the ambit is that there should be free and fair election in this country. That is the ambit. This House cannot find out as to who is the murderer during the discussion. Therefore, I was expressing my concern.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not make it too wide.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is necessary, as far as the electoral process is concerned. I expressed my concern that charges and counter-charges are being traded on the floor of the House. A or B is being sought to be identified as the killer. Mr. Sathe clearly said that. That is why, I have to express my concern. This floor of this House is being utilised for this purpose. He asked; who is the beneficiary? Who is to benefit out of this murder? He has not stopped by putting the question only. He has answered it also. "The authority in power", he said. How can he say that? I am making it very clear that I am not holding any brief for 'a' or 'b' or head of that authority. If he is guilty, if he is found to be guilty, most serious punishment ought to be given to him. Even if he is head of the Government there, if he is found guilty, he should not be spared. But the hon. Member is identifying him by this without taking his name. Another hon. Member has mentioned another name. Is this the way this House will conduct itself? Let us confine ourselves to the seriousness of the issue, namely whether in this country elections would be allowed to be held in a free and fair manner.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: So, you go back to 1972.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Yes, I will go back because you have started it. The whole electoral process, the whole electoral system in this country has been polluted by those people

who had wanted to remain in power by hook or crook. This is a continuous thing. We are unhappy. We are unhappy that these types of incidents are there in our public life. There are people and there are political parties who take advantage of this. I know, you are unhappy. I know, you are uncomfortable because you have no answer. That is why, Mr. Chidambaram has to say that—you cannot take to 1972, 1977. What happened in Meham? What happened in Amethi in 1989? What happened there? Therefore, as I said, we strongly condemn this. We demand that all possible steps have to be taken and we also want that whatever may be the role of the Central Government, it has to be a positive role. They have to see that stringent measures are taken—not only to apprehend the culprits in this case, but in future, no such occasion should take place. There should be no such happening. This is also to be ensured both by the Central Government and by the State Government wherever it may happen.

I must again confess that I was very upset when this type of statements had been made in the House. You did try to stop one of the hon. Members. Probably you were not in the Chair when Mr. Sathe spoke—I do not remember. But if it was so, I expect that nobody should be allowed to find out who is the killer. This is not the place.

Sir, there are agent provocateurs also. This is also very serious. My information is restricted only to newspapers. But as I said, it is clear to me, at least while reading the papers, it was a cold-blooded and deliberate murder. To that extent, it is a most serious one. It was no doubt, there was no controversy or dispute. It appears that it was done in a cold-blooded manner and I demand that this Government should make it very clear in this country: You delink yourself from the past and say that during the rule of this Government no such thing will ever be allowed to happen in future so that in this country elections can really be free and fair and the people may be allowed to exercise their franchise with whatever way they wish to do.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I strongly condemn the Meham incident. We strongly condemn it because it is a murder of an innocent person and secondly it has given a new turn to our election process. So we should think as to how it can be checked. Though it is being discussed as to how free and fair elections are to be held in the country, yet I am not in favour of an Adjournment Motion because it is a censure motion against the Central Government. I would like to ask as to what the Central Government have done for which it should be condemned. If it is not related to the election, it is only a State subject as it relates to the law and order problem only. I would like to condemn this incident very strongly but I am not finding appropriate words for it. Besides it, I do not support this Adjournment Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is rightly said that the House is not fully competent to determine as to who is the real culprit because we have neither any machinery nor any adequate powers to do so. We can lay down the guidelines only and tender our suggestions to the Government. We cannot depend solely on the newspaper's reports. Just now it has been asked here as to what was the motive behind the murder and who is going to be benefited by it. It is right that politicians may say anything. But those who know even the ABC of politics can understand that such an attempt is made by a candidate who is losing and not by the winner. The candidate who is losing the election can stab himself or can arrange an attack on himself to win the sympathy of the electorate and sometimes he can commit even suicide. The motive behind this case of murder is also to defame the Chief Minister so that he may lose the election.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You have come out with a good argument. You have supported it.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I do not

want to go into the background. Sir, through you, I would like to request Shri Bhajan Lal not to look at it from a political angle. Whatever advice we have given of them earlier as friend was right. We do not adopt double standards. If such incident takes place at Amethy they remain silent and now in this case they are demanding resignation. My friend was saying that in the firing incident at Amethi, one of our friends was seriously injured and struggled for life for a number of days and one person was killed in that firing. I would have appreciated you, had you demanded resignation at that time also but you did not demand resignation because at that time it was the Government of your party there at the Centre as well as in the States. We are not bonded labourers to act to the dictates of our masters. When we found that the previous Meham incident was tarnishing the image of the Government we advised them accordingly. One who knows only the alphabets of the politics can very well understand it that the winning candidate cannot go to the extent of getting his rival murdered because that will harm him only.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: You speak according to the dictates of your conscience.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I speak according to my conscience. Earlier also I spoke from my own conscience and today also I am speaking from my conscience. We are not bonded labourers and our conscience is still alive.

14.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Khurana, please address the Chair.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the criminalisation of politics is a matter of great concern. It is not the sole incident of its kind. Such incidents have also occurred in the past which amounted to the murder of the democracy. Our friend from the CPI (M) has also said that such murders have been committed in the past also. Now they talk of free and fair election. I would like to ask as to how the

members elected for a period of five years in Delhi, continued for seven years? How the elections were postponed at the eleventh hour in Delhi. You always try to retain the power in your own hands and for that purpose you can impose emergency, postpone election for another five years, commit murder, impose martial law or misuse T.V. Therefore, I would like to say that today politics is being criminalised. I would like to say as to how the State Government handed over it to the Police? As the Chief Minister of Haryana. (*Interruptions*)

In view of the incident at Meham, the Chief Minister of Haryana decided that he would not go to that constituency for election campaign and the Centre should deploy its own forces there. Was it not a courageous step? I would also like to say that if the investigation of the case is done by some Central agency instead of Haryana police, every one will be satisfied with the impartiality in justice. Therefore, I would request the Central Government to hand over the case to the commission constituted for earlier Meham incidents so that the reality may come out and the real culprit may be brought to book. My second submission is that there should be an impartial inquiry into the matter because it is in the interest of the Chief Minister. And if it is conducted by the State agency or police, the Chief Minister would be blamed that because of his involvement in this matter, impartial enquiry has not been conducted. Therefore, if the enquiry is conducted by a Central agency the factual position will come before the people. Therefore, my suggestion is that this murder case should be investigated not by Haryana police but by a Central agency or this matter should be referred to the commission already constituted to enquire into the earlier Meham incidents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the incident of murder committed at Meham is a matter of concern for us. Sir, yesterday it was said that Harijans were killed in Prime Minister's constituency but what has happened in Amethi. You are raising the Meham issue re-

peatedly but what I want to say is that you should see all such incidents in the same perspective. (*Interruptions*) I am not justifying it here but you should not adopt double standards. After all murder is a murder and it is also a murder of democracy. It is a cold blooded murder but if such incident occurs at Amethi, that should also be condemned. It is not good if you strongly condemn an incident when it is occurring at Meham with a lot of hue and cry over it. But when such an incident occurs at Amethi you prefer to keep silent because that relates to your leader. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words I would like to say that we must condemn all such incidents and we should not adopt double standards. The Government should take firm steps to check the rising trend of criminalisation of politics and I would like to say that yesterday's Meham incident should not be inquired into by the Haryana Police. That will be in the interest of the Chief Minister. He should ask the Centre to enquire into this matter through a Central agency or this matter may be referred to the commission already appointed to inquire into Amethi incident.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (Faridabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you to ask all the hon. Members to listen to me carefully. (*Interruptions*)

If you allow me I would speak but if you do not wish I would not. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir it is not a matter of any particular party and it cannot be a party matter but it is a matter of protecting the democracy. (*Interruptions*) I have not yet spoken anything. We could also interrupt your speech unnecessarily but we did not interrupt you. The hon. Home Minister is sitting here and I would request him to control his party members. We have never interrupted anyone. Had we done so, no one could have spoken and that would be of no use. You will also get opportunity to speak and then you can reply to my point. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to request you to control them. I have not yet spoken anything.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please address the chair and leave others things to me.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Meham incident is a very serious matter and it is matter of great concern for the entire House. It is not the first incident that occurred at Meham but you might remember that on an earlier occasion when election was to be held there on 27th February, an incident which amounted to the murder of the democracy had also taken place there (*Interruptions*)

I am not saying it but a senior Minister of their party and the son of Choudhary Charan Singh, Shri Ajit Singh has said it. He visited the place alongwith his mother and some other persons. They went to the spot and assessed the situation and then gave a statement in this press that in fact the State Government have committed excesses and atrocities on the people there and that is why the Chief Minister should resign. I am not saying it but leaders of their party have said it. Not only this, over 100 press reporters of all newspapers visited the site and saw the entire incident with their own eyes. The press is the eye witness as to how booths were captured, how the atrocities were committed on the people and how the people were killed there. Not only one person was killed there but 45 persons out of which 23 were policemen and 22 civilians have lost their lives there. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAI PARKASH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, what is your point of order.

SHRI JAI PARKASH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Bhajan Lal is talking about the killing of 45 persons whereas only eight persons were killed there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order in it. Please sit down.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI (Sonepat): Choudhary Saheb, why are you giving wrong information?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are repeatedly interrupting which is not a good thing.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that 22 sepoys were killed and their beds are still lying in the barracks. They have not yet returned to their barracks because they have been killed. Their family members are worried about them. I do not know where they have kept their dead bodies because they have not been handed over to their family members. They are admitting the killings of eight sepoys.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: Choudhary Saheb, speak the truth. Can you tell any single name of such person?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you view the News track T.V. film produced by India Today, you will come to know as to what has happened there. It is shown in the first part of the film and in the second part of it is shown as to how booths were being captured and how... *...himself opened fire and the sarpanch of the village. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhajan Lal, please do not mention the name of any person who is not present in the House. The name will not go on record.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned the name so I withdraw that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, case has been registered against these people and all the people in the State know about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhajan Lal, please.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: All right. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what has happened there? Just now Shri Khurana was speaking on it. Other Members of BJP and CPM have also spoken on it. They all have said that at Meham, injustice has been done to the people and atrocities have been committed on them and the Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Om Prakash Chautala should resign. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA (Bolangir): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear his point of order.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: You had given a ruling earlier that nobody's name should be taken. This is your ruling. I do not challenge you; but I appeal to you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard you. Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: Sir, Whatever is being said is not true.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt every time by raising point of order. If any one makes allegations against other and makes defamatory statement then taking name is prohibited. If someone is speaking against any one politically, then taking name is not prohibited. Please do not raise point of order again and again. Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh). Shri Somnath Chatterjee told that whosoever is found guilty should be punished. He has not taken any name. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shastriji, please sit down. If you want to speak I would give you time to speak.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I can tell names of all those parties who demanded his resignation. All the newspapers and political affairs committee have told the Prime Minister that the Chief Minister of Haryana is guilty and he should be asked to resign but due to the pressure from the Deputy Prime Minister, he could not do so. And the same Prime Minister is saying that he is not weak. Can there be a person weaker than him? The democracy was murdered there like this. People all over the country including party Minister and BJP leaders are saying so but Shri V.P. Singh, under pressure from the Deputy Prime Minister, did not ask for the resignation of the Chief Minister (*Interruptions*) Shri Devi Lal is a Member of this House and taking his name is not prohibited.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Sir, I am on a point of order. It should be expunged.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not raise point of order again and again. Politically it can be discussed in the House and name can be mentioned. In defamatory and allegatory statements, name cannot be mentioned. It is not a point of order, please do not raise it again and again.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL. The Prime Minister used to say that he believed in value based politics. Is it his morality? So many people were killed there, atrocities were committed on them. Neither Shri Devi Lal who was elected from that area four times, nor Shri Om Prakash Chautala has visited the area to express their condolence. I do not like to say anything against the Election Commission which is an independent body but the Election Commission too has committed such excesses under Government pressure parallel of which you cannot find any where else.

It was demanded by all the people to fix a fresh date for the Election but even then chance was given to the Chief Minister to run away from that constituency. Earlier, it was said that voter's list would be revised and that would be done in 30 days but the Chief Minister said that it should be done within 15 days so that he might contest from other seat because he cannot face the people in that constituency. So the time was curtailed from one month to 15 days and under the Government pressure, the Chief Minister of Haryana was given a chance to change his constituency. Had he been so bold, he should have contested from the same constituency. Why he shifted to other seat? Earlier, Janata Dal Board was demanding his resignation but later on they allowed him to contest from any seat. So I would like to know as to where the morality of Shri V.P. Singh and his Government has gone?

Again a fresh date of election was fixed. The Chief Minister went there under heavy police protection to assess the situation but he found great resentment among the people. He filed his nomination from an other seat and said that he would not go to his constituency for campaigning. How could he go there? After all, how many people he would hoodwink? Both, he and his son cannot enter that area. There is great resentment among the people. He knew that he cannot even save his security deposit from there. Keeping this thing in mind he put up a dummy candidate there. Shri Ameer Singh, who was murdered, was their own candidate. I am telling you as to what the people are generally saying. Shri Jai Prakash has said that I was involved in it. I would like to tell him that it is the august House and one should speak truth here. I challenge him on it. You can constitute a committee of your own party to enquire into it and if they find my involvement in it, I would resign and if it is not true, he should resign. (Interruptions) He should see before making allegations against any one. The man thinks that as is he, so are the others. I have told him in the Central Hall that he was lucky as I had to contest from Fari-

dabad as a result of which he could win from Hissar. (Interruptions) The hon. Members of the House may not know about him. He is the Chief of green brigade in Haryana. He considers himself to be a big shot. I know how to counter such things. (Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the murder of Shri Ameer Singh is a matter of great concern not for Haryana only but for the entire country. We all need to think over it deeply. So long as we do not check such incidents we cannot save democracy in our country.

AN HON. MEMBER: It all started from Amethi.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Please listen to me. If you listen to the earlier details you can understand as to what was the reality. On 16th i.e. day before yesterday, the son of Shri Om Prakash Chautala was invited for dinner at the House of Shashi Kalan Singh at Rohtak. Shri Ameer Singh, who was murdered, was also present there. The dinner was over at 10.30 P.M. (Interruptions) We would like to tell the reality so that House may also come to know as to what had actually happened there. After the dinner they came to the Rest House and from there, at 11.00 P.M. Shri Ajay Singh and some of his party workers took Shri Ameer Singh to Madina which is situated between Rohtak and Meham to drop him at his village. And it was at 4.00 A.M. that he was murdered and his dead body was found on the road near Budal...*....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Last sentence of Shri Bhajan Lal will not go on record.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: His dead body was found there and bullet shots were found on it. At 4.00 A.M. he was killed and his deadbody was thrown there. (Interruptions) Please listen to me. You may constitute a joint committee of the House to enquire into the matter. The other candidate Shri Anand Singh Dangi and Shri Ameer Singh, who has been murdered-both of them belong to the same vil-

lage Madina. Party politics can also be there in a village. As they have pointed it out, they might have contested Panchayat Elections. In elections one may lose and the other may win and that is entirely a different matter. But the Government got it in writing from the brothers of Shri Anand Singh Dangi that he has committed murder. You can imagine how they came to know about it. Who was the eye witness of the murder. (*Interruptions*) I admit that he was murdered. It is fact that he was shot dead but who has killed him. That would be known after enquiry. They do not take it seriously. It is not a matter to laugh at sometime they are talking about Amethi and sometime about Sanjay Singh. It is a very serious matter. It is a question of saving the democracy. We should have great concern as to how we can save the democracy in our country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are not addressing the chair.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may be looking anywhere but I am addressing the chair only. The dead-body was found in village Mudal in which the daughter of the Chief Minister has been married. After the enquiry, everything will become crystal clear. Whatever I am saying is true and I am saying it honestly and confidently. Besides.

SHRI JAI PARKASH: The daughter of the Chief Minister has not been married in Mudal village. It is your habit that you always try to misguide the House.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Has she not been married to the son of Shri Tekchand, the ex MLA? I can tell the names of their forefathers. Do I not know the people of Haryana? After registering the case against Shri Dangi and his three brothers, police reached there to arrest them. The people of the entire village gathered there and strongly objected to the arrest. They told the police that these people were in different places for election campaign at the time of murder. When more police force reached there and the people of the village continued to resist the arrest, the

police opened fire in which three persons including one 16 year old girl were killed and some other were injured. The firing was so heavy that it appeared as if Pakistan had attacked there. Such excesses were committed by the police. It is not the first instance but earlier also 20,000 policemen were deployed there and DIG was also present there. Unprecedented excesses and atrocities were committed there by the police. It is a murder of democracy. No body is safe today in Haryana. I am speaking against them so I am also not safe. What will happen in this country and how the democracy will survive? We have to think over it seriously.

I would like to say that a joint committee of the House should be constituted to enquire into the matter to separate chalk from the cheese. Or a sitting judge of High Court or Supreme Court should enquire into it so that the culprit may be brought to book and proper action could be taken against them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, no security has been provided to any candidate in Meham whereas in DarbaKalan, 12 securitymen has been provided to each candidate. You might have read the statement of one candidate in today's newspapers that they cannot do anything because policemen are always with them. In the evening they give all information to the Government. Every night they call the people and ask them as to how they agreed to vote for the Congress. CID men are always with them in Darba Kalan which has created panic among the public. It has been done to win the election. They were not even able to enter the Meham constituency and he was going to lose his security deposit. They thought that they could save their honour by committing murder. Therefore, it should be enquired into. The Haryana police cannot enquire into it. CBI or a committee of the House or a sitting judge of High Court or Supreme Court should inquire into it so that reality may come before the public.

With these words, I condemn this incident and appeal to the House to rise above the party politics to save the democracy in the country.

SHRIBHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter and I myself have experienced such things. Therefore, I wish that the House should seriously think over it.

A candidate has been murdered there and in police firing a 16 years old girl and a middle aged man, Shri Kishan Singh were also killed. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it appears from the news papers reports and photos that police involvement is also there in it. In my constituency also, polling booths and counting booths were captured during Assembly Elections in which the government officers played a vital role. Even our congress friends were also there. Five persons were killed there in firing.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, inspite of declaration, an impartial enquiry by the State machinery is not possible there. I have repeatedly requested the Home Minister that the enquiry should be conducted by the CBI because the the State administration is not in a good shape. We have seen a number of dead bodies in Mundala village. Through the Chief Minister has declared, I do not believe him. They had indulged in booth capturing there and it is a very serious matter.

The hon. Chief Minister has announced that the matter will be thoroughly investigated and proper action will be taken on it. You are aware that last time in those days of communal tension on the Ram Janam Bhoomi issue, my friend Shri Mitrasen Yadav had won election. At that time Shri Mitrasen Yadav gave a message to the entire country that they did not want any bloodshed or killings or communal riots at the birth place of Lord Rama. But some days later, Shri Mitrasen Yadav was shot at and his life could be saved only after great efforts. May be that you are aware of a fact about me also that at the time of Lok Sabha elections, I was arrested at 3 O'clock in the night. Later I came to know only through radio and the press that I was carrying a bag full of bombs for which I had been arrested. I have fought throughout my life and even now I have come here after scaling up the walls of the jail, but in my

life I have never touched a bomb. When the people came to know about my arrest, after 12 O'clock, the very next day it sent in a wave of resentment among them.

So this tendency is on increase day by day. The Congress Party ruled over this country for a long time and has encouraged such incidents. It is for that reason that such incidents are taking place in Haryana and Meham. Whatever is happening is very painful for all of us. But one point which is very pertinent for us is that at least the Haryana Government or the Haryana Police should not take up the responsibility of conducting the investigation and it is in their interest. I have always won the election., but I would like to submit that it should be made clear that one person can contest election from one place only and not from any other place and he should also be asked to furnish such a declaration that he would contest election from one place only. Besides, this, he should also ensure that he will not have a polling agent. Today a lot of irregularities are taking place in the courts. It is for you and us to think about these peculiar ways of democracy. I don't know how these things are happening. It cannot be said who was behind that murder, but the intention behind that murder was certainly to get the elections cancelled or postponed. A lot of doubts can be raised, but the doubts can never account to a fact. Today people doubt that only one person stood from two places thinking that he would win from either of the places. But doubts can be raised about any other person also. It is not proper to form opinions merely on the basis of doubts. I would like to urge that all of us here in the House should unanimously condemn the incident and request the government to get this incident investigated not by the State Government, but by a judge of the Supreme Court or High court or in some other way. It would be better, if the Haryana Government itself initiates such an action and if it is not so, the Members of this House should consider the matter to save the democracy.

I think that the Government should discuss it as to which will be the right way of

investigation, so that the people may repose their faith in the Government, because it is a very serious matter. They should take care that everywhere the place of ballot is not occupied by the bullet. In fact the way of ballots is two way traffic. None can escape that. So what is the fault of the Government of India. I am not supporting this Adjournment Motion. Instead I am opposing it. Something must be done in this regard so that such incidents do not recur in future. Otherwise in future also, for getting the election postponed, anyone can resort to such ways and anyone can be murdered. So an investigation is very necessary in this incident.

No doubt Shri Bhajan Lal has demanded an enquiry in this matter. The hon. Minister has given a statement that the hon. Chief Minister should resign. We support their view point. How can I say that whatever he said was wrong. However it is my submission that under the present circumstances there have been a lot of doubts in this regard. So a judicial enquiry should be got conducted at the central level, about which no doubts can be raised and people can get justice. An enquiry should be got conducted into the police killings also which took place later. The Police also know how and when to arrest a person. Whenever there is some risk involved in it they release the culprits, but arrest the people when they are alone. What was the need to fight with those people. Till now two persons have been left dead. God knows what will be the next news. But one should be careful in this regard. I hope the Haryana Government will pay attention in this regard. It is yet to be seen what attitude it adopts regarding the people.

While opposing this Adjournment Motion, I would like to urge that we should unanimously condemn this incident and a judicial enquiry or any proper enquiry should be got conducted in this regard. I would like to submit that the Haryana Government should in no way be associated with such an enquiry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to

bring it to the notice of the hon. Members of the House that a period of two hours and thirty minutes has been given for this Adjournment Motion. Perhaps we started this discussion at 1 O' clock and our Private Members' Business is scheduled to start at 3.30 P.M. I have a long list of names who want to speak on it. Now I am going to call some people. Those who will be called, should express their views without repeating the points. In that way, more members will be getting the opportunity to speak. Now I call Shri Kapil Dev Shastri.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, since 1937 I have been a close witness of the political developments in Haryana.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please don't make a long introductory speech.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: I am not going to make a long speech. I will speak only on the issues so that it may be clear that I am speaking only on the basis of facts. I have seen a number of people struggling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have again started in that style. There are many others who want to speak.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: I will conclude within minutes (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at present, the entire country is on one side on the issue of Meham against the stand taken by Shri Om Prakash Chautala on the other side. It is a direct fight. I don't know the reason as to why the entire press in the country has joined hands only to oppose him blindly and they are not looking for the facts.

SHRIBHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir I am on a point of order. It is not proper to criticise the press in the words that they are blindly opposing. It should not go on record of the House.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Why are you speaking against the press (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: I am not saying anything baseless. During the last three months except the last 5 to 10 days whatever has appeared in the press has all along been a one sided story. Here I have with me a copy of the Dainik Tribune dated 28th February, in which a photo has appeared under which the following sentence has been written that a voter's hand has been burnt with acid. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was myself present at the polling booth. It is the incident of Bhaini Maharajpur. The labourer suffered burn injuries on his hand while constructing speed-braker at Bhaini Maharajpur on the 24th February; His name is Hawa Singh. While agreeing to the views expressed by Choudhary Bhajan Lal, I would like to make an appeal to the august House that let some hon. Member visit Bhaini Maharajpur and satisfy himself after verifying the facts whether that man suffered burn injuries on his hand from coal-tar or acid. First that man went to a private practitioner for treatment and then to Government hospital at Meham. In the meeting, he got up and said that he had suffered burn injuries from coal-tar and not from acid. Had the burn been caused by acid, he would have suffered burn injuries at his face, abdominal part, eyes and his clothes also would have also been burnt. It hardly appeals to reason that a deadbody remained lain for 23 days without being eaten away by dogs, vultures and crows and Anand Singh Dangi and the P.T.I. brought that deadbody and cremated in their village. It may please be verified whether the deadbody remained lain on the L.T.I. ground for 23 days or not.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I fail to understand what he is talking about.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot be given time for these things.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. At the moment, there is no Minister in the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: When I speak the truth why do you become agitated? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever you want to say, say within 5 minutes. Thereafter I would not allow you time to speak.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you kindly allot me the time to be given to other speakers of the Janata Dal. I am an authorised person of the Haryana politics and speaking on matters concerning the State. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to challenge the country.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please do not challenge the country through me. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: I would like to throw a challenge to the ruling party, the opposition parties, the press and the entire House that let anybody prove Shri Abhay Singh guilty and take Rs. 1 lakh from me and in case he fails to prove, he should pay me Rs. 10,000. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It is the duty of the enquiry agency to conduct the enquiry. I shall pay Rs. 2 lakhs if the enquiry is ordered to be conducted by a Judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court Judge. It is my challenge.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This House will not be allowed to be used as a place for betting purposes.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: I am telling this because the name of Abhay Singh has been implicated in the shooting incidents.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: He was taken out in police uniform *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: The House has been informed that 45 people were killed. In this connection, I would like to point

out that when death of a single person becomes a matter of concern for the whole country, but here 45 people were killed and there is nobody to tell as to who were these people and what are their addresses. Through you, I would like to tell Shri Bhogendra Jha that everybody was apprehensive and concerned that some people were bent upon not to allow the Chief Minister to enter the Legislative Assembly as an elected Member before 2nd June. There is a small village called Kirsola ear Julana. These people got the nomination papers filled by a man of that village. Daraba Kalan is 100 Kilometres away from that village. In a bid to see that Chautala does not enter the Legislative Assembly as an elected member by winning the election from Daraba Kalan, as many as 10 candidates have been fielded. In this move, one more candidate contesting the election from Daraba Kalan could also be murdered just to countermand the polls. There have also been references in the House of incidents of booth capturing. In this connection, I have got a copy of the daily Hindustan with me, Shri Santosh Tiwari writes that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have spoken for 15 minutes, now you conclude. Your party was allotted 40 minutes time. Then the hon. Minister will speak. Thereafter, Private Members Business will be taken up at 3.00 p.m. As such, you will have to conclude within one minute. I have already told you not to say all these things.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: Dangi is not a scrupulously honest person. In one of the earlier elections, he was a candidate of the Congress Party. I have got a copy of the daily Hindustan and I read out from it. He indulged in booth capturing at an earlier occasion also. He is not free from blemishes.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Six months ago when the same Anand Singh Dangi was with them he was a sacred man?

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: I would

not like to take anybody's name. There is a deep conspiracy behind the murder of Shri Amir Singh and it should be unmasked. Just now my hon. friends said that a lot of excesses were committed in the last elections and newsmen were manhandled.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why do not you understand? Your time is about to be over.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: There is a video news magazine called the 'Newstrack' and I would like to play the video-tape magazine in the House. It will prove the identity of the people involved in the assault? This is what I want to say and it is my main point of stress. Secondly, there is a deep conspiracy behind the murder of Shri Amir Singh. The matter is under investigation and the decision of the enquiry agency will be acceptable to us. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, it is over. It is a very good thing and it is the crux of the matter.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: I take it granted that there was no co-ordination between the a better of the murder and the person who actually committed it. They are all different persons, the people who abeted the crime, the person who actually committed the murder, the person who lifted the deadbody and the person who dumped the body on road-side. This House should have no objection to pursue the case if the brother of the victim lodges a case so as to bring out the truth.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shastriji, it's over now. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever Mr. Shastriji says hereafter will not go on record. Mr. Chitta Basu.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the matter under discussion is very specific. It is not only specific but it is of grave political implication. The issue before the House is the very question of the survival of the Parliamentary democracy in our country.

Sir, to me, Meham today appears to be the graveyard of the Parliamentary democracy, which the Constitution of our country provides and guarantees. On earlier occasion also during February election it is this very Meham where we had also witnessed a large scale State sponsored rigging. We had also witnessed during that time the onslaught on the journalists of our country thereby leading to a great apprehension to the freedom of this nation.

Sir, I do not like to discuss much on it. But I want to remind the hon. Home Minister and the leaders of the National Front Government that you are here. We are also here because of our commitment to the Parliamentary democracy. You had also assured the people of our country that during your regime you would not only preserve the democracy of our country but also further strengthen the democracy of our country. I think, you have begun well. It is you who have not only made that commitment but also taken further steps so that the democracy in our country can be further strengthened and the authoritarian undemocratic trends in our body politics which have been set into motion by the earlier regime are removed. On this occasion also you should rise equal to the occasion and see that no steps are taken which ultimately leads to the erosion of the democratic rights.

15.00 hrs.

The National Front is committed to a very basic fundamental issue i.e. you do not encourage personalised politics unlike theirs. You are for institutionalised politics. And institutionalised polity guarantees democracy. Unless democracy is there I take that institutionalised polity cannot also survive. So far as India is concerned, it is not the question of

winning a seat or losing a seat, making a particular person the Chief Minister of a State or not making him Chief Minister of a State. India cannot survive without democracy. It is the question of India. If you want to ensure the survival of this great country of ours, it is your duty to see that the democracy in our country is also allowed to survive. If democracy is destroyed, India is destroyed. Therefore, Meham sends this ominous signal and I hope that all of us in this House, whether belonging to that side of the House or this side of the House, should respond properly and appropriately to the ominous signal which today Meham has sent.

Lastly, I say that I do not know what has prompted them to move this adjournment motion. An adjournment motion means censure of the Government. Here in this case, in Parliament it is the Government of India. As regards the murder which has taken place the Government of India is in no way responsible for that. So far as the murder is concerned, it naturally is to be looked into by the Government of the State. There are set norms for it. But it is in the wisdom of this House and the Speaker that you have decided to allow this motion to be discussed on a larger perspective and that perspective is survival of the democracy of our country. Therefore, while I condemn this murder as most shameful, reprehensible and it tantamounts to an attempt of the murder of democracy, I also feel that the Government should take proper and sternest possible action against those who would be found guilty. I support this move but I oppose the adjournment motion which they have been so pleased to move.

SHRIP CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga)

I come from a State where my experience is only of peaceful elections. All of us in politics have to face up to the truth that some elections we win and that some elections we lose. In the last 42 years we have had distinguished leaders in this country who lost elections while holding high office. The one shining example that comes to my mind today is of late Shri Kamaraj. He was the President of the Indian National Congress

when he lost a general election in his own constituency and was defeated by a student leader. I remember another example of a Chief Minister of one of the north Indian States who lost the bye-election and therefore, had to tender his resignation as Chief Minister. I think, that was in U.P. Therefore, losing an election is not the end of one's life nor losing an election is the end of the life of a political party.

Meham has a history. Meham was an unknown word three months ago. But, today if you ask a child who goes to an English medium School to spell 'May hem' the child will spell Mayhem as Meham. Sir, Meham has a history and that history cannot be forgotten while we debate this Adjournment Motion.

I am glad that Shri Ajit Singh is here. When reference was made to him earlier, he was not here. I think now that he is here, I can take courage and refer to him.

Sir, in the last election, which was to be conducted in Meham, there was wide-spread rigging, booth capturing, intimidation of voters and the ball was squarely in the court of the Election Commission and the Central Government. I am answering Shri Chitta Basu and other Members who asked why this Adjournment Motion against the Central Government. Whose responsibility is it to conduct elections in the country? Who is responsible to ensure that the Representation of the people Acts 1950 and the Representation of the Peoples Act of 1951 are properly implemented? Who amended Section 28 A? Who introduced Section 28 A? What did Parliament say when 28 A was introduced? Parliament said every official, every polling agent, every police officer seconded for duty in election will come under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission, shall be deemed to be under deputation to the Election Commission and shall be under the disciplinary control of the Election Commission. So, let us not pass the buck by saying that this is a matter concerning the

State Government. There cannot be a greater ostrich like attitude. This is not a Municipal Election, this is not a Panchayat Election. These elections are conducted under the Representation of the Peoples Act and the Central Government bears the direct responsibility because it is the Law Minister and the Home Minister who bear the responsibility to answer on behalf of the Election Commission.

In the last election, rightly or wrongly, every party spoke. In fact I say with a sense of regret that Congress (I) was accused of maintaining silence. That was your charge, do not forget that. BJP spoke up.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, what is that?

SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we are here only to listen to speeches, the utility of his speech could be understood. But during their regime, the previous Government flouted the verdict of the Election Commission and all orders in this connection of such an extent that...*

(Interruptions)

Sir, people talking of democracy in the country today are the very people who are responsible for the disintegration of the country. It is a matter of great sorrow and shame.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. Name will not go on record.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the person who cannot defend himself in this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bhajan Lal ji, please take your seat. I have already expunged the name.

[English]

I think at 3.30 P.M. we have to conclude the debate.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this Central Government is not a disembodied entity. The Central Government is run by a political party. When we accuse the Central Government, when we charge the Central Government, it is the political issue which has to be faced squarely by the political parties running the Central Government. There is no running away from this fact. It is not as though the Central Government has one face and the political party has another face. When you sit there, you sit there as political party leaders with the mandate which you claim of the people as a political party to run the Government.

What did this political party do last time? This political party, its Secretary-General, went there squarely condemned the Chief Minister and called upon the Chief Minister to resign. This political party appointed a 5-Member Committee and the 5-Member Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to the Parliamentary Board. There is no destination between a political party running a Government and the Government on matters of a political nature. The five-member committee said that this Chief Minister must resign or the Government must be dismissed. Now, what I ask today is. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani):
On a point of order, Sir.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am sorry, I am not yielding. There is no time, so, how can I?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him make his point of order.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if it is not a point of order, you must give me more time.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Sir, the ex-Home Minister is stating that there is no

difference between the political party running the Government and the Government itself. That is very awful. I think if you run the Government. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, elections are fought to a political basis. Election is a political issue and it is the basis of the political structure of this country. The ruling party is a political party and, therefore... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please try to conclude.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there were the two points of order, so, you must allow me the time for that because my time has been taken away by them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If other Members from your party are not going to speak, I can give you the time.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if you ask me to sit down, I will sit down.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please take your seat. I really do not appreciate Members when I tell them that they have to make their speeches in time and they tend to saying that they would sit down, and all those things. There are other Members from your party who have to speak. You please understand the difficulty that within the time we have to do it. It is not that I am asking you to stop it. I am asking you to regulate the time. All the time you get up and say that you will sit down and all that. This is not correct. I am not against you but I have many Members from your party. Please understand me, Mr. Chidambaram. You are making a good speech and we would like to share it with you, but the time is limited.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this Government proclaimed that it is committed to value-based politics. This Government said that it believes in an alternative model of

governance. Now I ask them to search their heart. Where is their value-based politics? Where is their alternative model of governance? I am not going into the details of what happened in Meham. But what has happened in Meham, let me say with great anguish. What is the issue is not one by election. What is the issue is not one constituency. What is the issue is something far deeper, far more sinister, which many of us here—maybe all of us here—do not share, but there is a group of people in this country, there is a group of politicians in this country who believe that they can cross any line, they can go to any limit, they can do anything in order to satisfy their lust for power and remain in power. That is the issue. Chitta Basuji, I am not blaming you, I am not blaming Somnathji. We do not share this ethos. But there is a group of people in this country who believe in this that they can go to any limit to remain in power. (*Interruptions*) What are we sitting here for, what is this Parliament for, that is all I am asking. I do not care if I am defeated in the next election. But there is certainly a group of people who believe that they must remain a Member, they must remain in power, and for that they will go to any limit, cross any limit, violate any law, violate every value. That is the issue today. Here is a quotation which is in a responsible magazine. I am sure if this is wrong the Editor of this magazine will answer. Let me read it: 'A man who does not have thousands of enemies, I do not consider him to be a man. A man whose name does not make some people squirm at night, his life has no meaning. His coming into this world is purposeless.' Now, who said this? Om Prakash Chautala. (*Interruptions*) Let the Editor of the magazine answer. The Home Minister is here, the Secretary-General of the ruling party is here, other Ministers are here. The question that I wish to ask is here is the Government, here is the ruling party which is cowering before a small group of people, who will do anything to remain in power. They are in full retreat. They cannot assert their political authority. They cannot assert their political authority. And this is the Government which says it will maintain law and order in this country and will protect the

people. I ask the Prime Minister, and the Home Minister, the Industry Minister, the Secretary General of the Party, whether they will stand up as a political party and as a Government to this naked assault on democracy? You will be tested on what you do this evening and what you do tomorrow. What we demand here will go as sheer waste. You may not listen to our demands. But search your hearts on what answer you will give this evening and what the people of this country will read in the newspaper tomorrow morning and what the All India Radio and Doordarshan will broadcast. The people of this country will test you on that. Will you stand up or will you be shown to be powerless? That is what I want to ask you. Here is a candidate who said "I will win by 17000 votes." Here is a candidate who said "I will not appoint polling agents here is a candidate who said". I will not go to the people of my constituency". Sir, he will not go with humility to the people in his constituency and ask them to vote for him. Sir, I was a candidate and you were a candidate and we went to the people with humility and said "please vote for me". But he says that he will not go to the people but he will win by 17,000 votes. Sir, did Government have a premonition? Did anyone have a premonition? Did anyone suspect that Meham election will be countermanded? But here is a candidate who said "I will not go to my constituency, I will not appoint Polling agents but I will win the elections by 17,000 votes". (*Interruptions*) Sir, we demand the dismissal of Chautala's Government. We demand that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be appointed to inquire into the Meham incident. Sir, the ruling party, the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Board of that Party and their leadership will be tested by what they do this evening what they do to night and what they do tomorrow. The country will test you by your action. "Are you powerless? Will you stand up to the naked assault on democracy?" That is the issue of this adjournment motion.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The debate

will continue till 3 O' clock. Thereafter, Private Members Business will be taken up. I do not think that this debate will be completed in such a short time i.e. 10-15 minutes. There are still several hon. Members to speak and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs will also give his reply. I would like to know whether you would like to extend this debate beyond 3.30 P.M. or take it up after the Private Members' Business?

[English]

I would like to inform the House that the hon. Speaker decided at 1.30 that before the Private Members' Resolution is taken up at 3.30, this discussion should be completed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): We can extend this discussion by half-an-hour and the Private Members Resolution can be taken up at 4 O' clock.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right, at 4 O'clock we will take up the Private Members' Resolution. Whatever the time is taken for completion of this discussion, will be compensated it for the Private Members' Resolution.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the whole House is concerned over the incident which occurred at Meham. This incident is a wrong precedent for we people who are working in public life and contest elections. Free and fair elections are pre-requisite for democracy, otherwise democracy cannot survive. The death of Shri Amir Singh should be condemned by all sections of the House. Violence is condemnable and we, all condemn it, be it in Amethi, Meham or in any other constituency. Some speakers have drawn the attention towards the statements of Shri Ajit Singh and some other Janata Dal leaders so I would like to say that instead of advising the others, they should search their own hearts and see as to what extent they had followed the advice given by their party leaders Shri Kamalpathi Tripathi and Shri

Uma Shanker Dixit. It appears that with the change of side from treasury benches to opposition benches they are talking more wisely about running the Government. Just now Shri Chidambaram was saying that the people would make assessment about the performance of the Government from whatever the All India Radio and Doordarshan broadcast, but I would like to ask whether their Government was also assessed from what has been broadcast from All India Radio and Doordarshan for the last five years. The trend of violence started under their regime and it is still going on, so it has to be checked. If you are sincere about it and want to put an end to this evil, please do not draw a party line. We all should condemn it.

I think there is shortage of time so I appeal to all the Members to rise above the petty party politics to condemn the incident. But there is no justification for bringing the Adjournment Motion against the Central Government because it is the responsibility of the State Government and not of the Centre. I oppose the Adjournment Motion and condemn the violence.

With these words, I thank you, Sir, for giving me time to speak.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Domariaganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Adjournment Motion moved in the House

The murder committed at Meham is a condemnable act. Election must be free and fair which is essential for the democracy. To my surprise, the Members of the opposition are talking high of the morality and democracy but if they do their retrospection they would come to know the truth. Yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister told in the House that during the recent Lok Sabha election in Fatehpur, a murderous attack was made on him. After the election, his election agent who was a Harijan was shot dead but the culprits remained scot free and no action was taken against them. The culprits were arrested only after the Janata Dal Government took over at the Centre. Do not lose your

patience as soon as violence in Amethi was mentioned. Shri Sharad Yadav is sitting here, Maneka Gandhi had contested from this constituency and recently Shri Rajmohan Gandhi contested from there, right from Sanjay Gandhi to till date no opposition candidate could get more than 20,000 votes. They captured polling booths through police personnel who were posted there in plain clothes. Who indulged there in such mean acts? He was the Prime Minister of the country and now he is opposition leader. It is a matter of shame that murder is committed for winning the election. What you have done—you have committed forgery and misused government machinery, government officials and the C.B.I. and its other allied agencies. When Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh left the Congress Party, hooliganism were created in his rallies, snakes were hurled, murderous attacks were made, buses were stopped and aeroplanes were delayed. Who is that gang which wants to remain in power? I would like to say one thing here that Shri Om Prakash Chautala was contesting from two seats and it was clear from the press reports that he was going to win the election. The drama enacted by the ideal man of the Congress party from Haryana, Shri Bhajan Lal was also exposed. It appeared in newspapers also. Shri Chautala had also filed his nomination from on other seat so I would like to ask as to how Shri Chautala would be benefited from countermanding of the Meham election. Is it not a conspiracy to defame the Central and State Government? Therefore, I would like to say that there is no justification of bringing Adjournment Motion. The duty of the Central Government is to hold election and the State Government has to provide security. FIR has been registered against the criminals and police is investigating the matter. When an impartial investigation by the CID and the CBI is going on why it is being influenced by the propaganda and publicity through press. If you will try to infringe upon the democratic rights of a State that will be a two sided dice which will sometime favour us and sometime favour you. There should be free and fair election in democracy and with these words, I condemn the Meham incident and oppose the Adjournment Motion.

SHRI BANSI LAL (Bhiwani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Meham issue is being discussed in the House and the whole House is of the unanimous view that there should be no violence in the elections.

But Meham has its own history which started about three months back. The present Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Om Prakash Chautala is contesting Assembly election from Meham as well as from Darbrakalan. It is an open secret that the Chief Minister of Haryana was going to lose Assembly election from Meham not from a narrow margin but with a huge margin of several thousands of votes. It is my assessment because it is an area adjacent to my constituency.

On the one hand, he declared that he would neither visit his constituency for election campaign nor appoint any polling agent, on the other, he was touring the adjoining areas around the constituency. He was camping at Rohtak for two-three days. Day before yesterday, he was at Bhiwani and yesterday he was the same village from where the dead body was found. It was a pre-planned programme of Shri Chautala to visit that village. I do not say anything as to what has appeared in today's newspapers but the people from Rohtak have told me the real story an telephone.

The person killed there was a candidate. He was with the son of the Chief Minister of Haryana upto 2.00 A.M. and at 5.A.M. his dead body was found in Madalkhurad Village. The murder was committed during these three hours. Shri Dangi, his men or any third person were not aware of the activities of the deceased. It is clear as to who has committed the murder. I cannot say at which place the murder was committed but it is clear that dead body was thrown in Bhiwani district. Why it was thrown in Bhiwani District? Because the present S.P. of Bhiwani District is the same person who was earlier posted in Sirsa, the home district of Shri Devi Lal. From Sirsa he was transferred to Hissar where he did large scale rigging in the recent Lok Sabha elections. Just now Shri Jai Parkashji was speaking who was elected from

[Sh. Bansi Lal]

Hissar. The Deputy Commissioner who was the Returning Officer of Hissar caught the S.P. and some other persons red handed with the Ballot Boxes and illegal arms and ammunitions and also wrote a D.O. letter. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister of Haryana and the said S.P. called the Deputy Commissioner who was Returning Officer also, to the rest House at Hissar and asked him to withdraw his written report. But the Deputy Commissioner refused to withdraw his report and said that it was their duty to see whether the case has to be closed or not. The Home Minister threatened him and said that he had a long service. But the chap was bold enough and said that he had a 28 years of permanent service at his disposal but the Minister's tenure was only 2 1/2 years and that also if he remains as a Minister. The same evening he packed his belongings and as soon as the elections were over he was transferred to Chandigarh. The S.P. was transferred to Bhiwani. He was sent to Bhiwani, because he is more pliable and can do any illegal or legal work for Shri Devi Lal and the Chief Minister of Haryana. During the Meham election in February, the Election Commission and The Director General of Police imposed restrictions on this S.P. not to leave his headquarter but even then on the polling day this fellow was seen giving orders to the police and even to D.G. police at Meham. This has been clearly mentioned by the Election Commissioner in his decision and the name of said S.P. has also been mentioned in the decision. Then it is not understood that when firing was ordered yesterday at Madina village to make some arrests, the same S.P. was present there at that time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one thing, through you, that whenever this person is present, such illegal works are done. I don't want to make any personal allegation but the same S.P. was there in Sirsa district when an incident occurred at the house of Shri Devi Lal and when the

Deputy Commissioner caught red handed the persons carrying ballot boxes and indulged in firing, the same S.P. was there and now all these things are happening in the presence of this S.P.

Besides, I would like to bring one thing to the notice of the House that during last two-three months, several false police cases have been instituted in Meham, Rohtak, Bhiwani, Hissar, Sonapat and Jind districts against those people who had opposed the Haryana Chief Minister during the Meham by election. The number of such police cases is more than 200. In Meham alone, the number of persons who were granted bail by Judicial Magistrate in such false cases are more than 100. Therefore, I would like to ask the Home Minister, through you, Sir, as to what is happening there? The works are done by the IAS and IPS officers and they are all the officers of the Government of India.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of surprise that all officers are reaching at Meham. The I.G. CID is staying at Rohtak which is adjoining to Meham. All officers are present there and such incidents are talking place. While not taking much time of the House I would like to say that many persons from Meham constituency have met me during last one week who were hitherto loyal to Shri Devi Lal but now they have parted company with him because of his atrocities against them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh talks of value based politics. Personally, I have nothing to say anything against Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh and I do not have any personal differences with him but when he has appointed Shri Devi Lal as the Deputy Prime Minister and Shri Om Prakash Choutala as the Chief Minister, he should not talk of value based politics and should take the same step as he has taken as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. The person who has kept these two in the Government should not talk of value based politics. I would like to say through you that the Central Government

and the State Government of Haryana have failed in maintaining law and order. Now a days, there is no law and order in the State. I would take some more time because generally I do not speak but I speak only when it is necessary.

Similarly, look at the other aspect that the candidates in Meham constituency have not been provided security whereas it appeared in newspaper that 10 to 20 security men were provided to the candidates in Sirsa. As a matter of fact, they were incarcerated in their houses. If an A.S.I. was given to the deceased candidate, where he has gone? He has given no statement. Why he has not faced the killers? Why he has not lodged F.I.R.? Where he has gone? Secondly, Shri Chautala is trenching at the same village and on the other hand, his Deputy Chief Minister is calling upon the Election Commissioner to hold elections there. Thirdly his Home Minister is calling a press conference in Delhi and saying that the deceased candidate Shri Amir Singh had not met the Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Choutala after filing his nomination for Assembly election, whereas newspapers are saying that he was with Shri Chautala upto 6-7 P.M. at Canal Rest House, Rohtak. These are many versions. Lie has no legs to stand upon and the truth will come out soon. In this way... **..... have criminalised the politics particularly in Haryana. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIJAI PARKASH (Hissar): Tell about Bhiwani. What was done there?

SHRIBANSILAL: I will tell about Bhiwani also but that will take time. I was Chief Minister and even then counting shall in my constituency was captured by the Janata Dal workers including Shri Jai Parkash who is the Chief of green brigade and declared me defeated. I could also resort to firing and could get the actual result declared. I won the election petition in the High Court. The Supreme Court also disqualified the candidate. He cannot participate in the Assembly. (*Interruptions*)

Shri Chautala has appointed him as Transport Minister in his Ministry. Whenever any question is asked or any other discussion takes place in the House regarding the Transport Ministry, the other Ministers give reply. He has been appointed Transport Minister because bogus tickets are sold in the buses of Haryana Roadways as a result of it, the Roadways is suffering loss of revenue for crores of rupees. But every evening, many lakhs of rupees are reached at the House of ... **... In this way... **... have criminalised the politics. I would request the Prime Minister to check it. I do not say that the Prime Minister encourages it. It seems that

[*English*]

Shri Devi Lal is holding the nation to ransom.

[*Translation*]

We have to get rid of this situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it seems that the murder was committed some time yesterday in the morning hour and in the same evening police reached to arrest the culprits, I do not know whether they are real culprits or not. But a murder case was registered against the Home Minister of Haryana, his son and other officers about three months back but till now no action has been taken against them. No statement has been recorded and no one has taken anticipatory bail from High Court. It is all because crimes are committed at the behest of Shri Devi Lal and the Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Om Prakash Chautala. (*Interruptions*)

I would like to bring yet another thing to your notice that during the last election, an observer of the Chief Election Commissioner from Delhi was sent to the constituency. He was kept under close surveillance. He was followed by a wireless jeep to inform their workers about his movement. As soon as the observer turned to the other side, booth-capturing were started. The Chief Election Commissioner has stated it in his decision

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that reports of both the observers have said that the S.P. of Bhiwani district had given information about their movements. How they come to know that wireless were fitted in their cars. This fact has also been clearly stated by the Chief Election Commissioner in his decision for countermanding the Election.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many things to be said about them but it is being said that the matter does not relate to the Centre but to the State Government. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Deputy Prime Minister of the country and his son who is unfortunately the Chief Minister of the State, violate the law, which is the right forum other than the Parliament to raise the issue. If the Deputy Prime Minister and members of his family indulge in such activities, we will raise them in the House. No investigation should be done by the Haryana Police. A sitting judge of the Supreme Court or a Joint Committee of the Parliament representing all political parties should enquire into this matter. Only then justice can be done in this matter otherwise not.

I would like to remind one more thing that the democratic principles of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru are accepted by all Shri B.N. Malik, Director, DEB, who was the security incharge of Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, has written a book named "My years with Nehru" in which he has written that in 1962 Nehruji fell ill and he (Shri Malik) used to go to Nehruji twice or thrice a week. Once when Shri B.N. Malik went to see Nehruji, he told Shri Malik that he had received some complaints that the Congress Party candidate from Barabanki Shri Ram Rattan Gupta had committed excesses and got the result declared in his favour. Nehruji asked Shri Malik to go to Barabanki to find out the actual facts because he did not want the misuse of election process or the democratic process. It was said by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru in the election petition Shri Ram Rattan Gupta was unseated and the independent candidate Shri Dandekar, ICS, was declared elected.

When Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru could do it against his own party, I think the present Prime Minister can also do it. Had Shri Devi Lal not resigned, there is no doubt that Shri Chautala would have been removed from the Chief Ministership. There are many things to speak but you are asking to conclude. So I conclude my speech and thank you.

SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE (Deoria):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very happy today to see the Members' concern about dangers to democracy. But it appears to me that this happiness is momentary because the moment we go out of this House, we will get busy in our selfish interests and political manoeuvres forgetting incidents like Meham. If the hon. Members who are genuinely concerned about it, look back at our history, they will find that when we were poor, our voice did not count, but we earned a name in the world under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi Jawahar Lal and Subhas Chander because our politics was based on moral values and we showed to the world that we have ideology of our own and we want to live in the world with self respect. This is the reason that such an atmosphere was not created in the country from 1947 to 1978-79, over which we feel concerned today. Such an atmosphere developed during the last 11 years i.e. since 1978-79 and has become a matter of concern, so much so that we are discussing it in the House today. But we can honestly identify the reason for this concern because though we have come from the Congress Party, yet our way of thinking has not changed much, least to the extent of blaming others. 43 years have passed since independence and out of these 43 years, the Congress Party has ruled the country for 40 years. Particularly, in the last 11 years, the Janata Party was in power only for two and half years and Shri V.P. Singh's Government is hardly 6 months old. We shall have to ponder over the past and find out from where all this started. Without blaming anyone I would like to say that if we want to build our country and its history, we shall have to rise above our political interests because political interests compel us to commit such heinous crimes. Only then, we shall be able

to build a new India of the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Babu.

Today, all are delivering speeches but they all do nothing more than that. Did not such incidents take place earlier in Punjab, Haryana and at Pratapgarh and other places in Uttar Pradesh? Today if such incidents take place at Amethi or in Haryana people raise their concern, but when 20-25 people are killed by the criminals elsewhere, no concern is expressed in the country. Our concern in the matter is natural but if degradation takes place in our democratic ideals, moral values and ideology, we shall not be worthy of living on this land and shall vanish from the world map. If we look at the history we shall see that Burma, Pakistan, Cyclone got independence alongwith India. But all these countries have lost their democracy. The happenings in Pakistan and the atrocities which the people had to face during 14 years of Marshal law are known to all. But I hope from the political parties who believe in democratic values of the country that they should not indulge in personalised politics. Keeping the future of coming generations in view, they should take democracy forward, make it strong and let it function smoothly. If the party in power commits such heinous acts, it should be condemned by all. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you were not here, hon. Speaker was presiding when I said that if the hon. Members in this House demand setting up of a Sub-Committee, I shall be the first person to say that this Government of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh believes in the democratic ideals and to absolve itself of the allegations, it will respect the democratic traditions. I want that in order to fulfil its commitment, the Government will set up a Sub Committee of the House to conduct an impartial enquiry so that guilty could be punished. Shri Advani has said that it has nothing to do with the party. Whosoever is involved in this heinous act should be identified condemned so that nobody in future could dare to indulge such an act.

With these words I would like to submit that we should all come together and strive

to establish democratic ideals and values. For this purpose we should constitute a Sub-Committee of this House so that the guilty could be condemned irrespective of the party he belongs to. This way, we can serve the cause of democracy.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Home Minister.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, I have made a request to allow Shri Handoo to speak for five minutes. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavilikara): Sir, I request you to kindly extend the time by 15 minutes. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I leave it to the of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it has to be finished at 4 o'clock. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, it may be extended. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Well, I do not know how to regulate. If the Members are within the time which is given to them, more Members can speak. If they are not within the time, less members only can speak. We have other business also. I do not know how to conduct. I would go by the sense of the House; and the sense of the House was that we should continue upto 2 o'clock. And...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, I would not disappoint, I would just extend the time given, by ten minutes. I would like the Members to finish only within three minutes time. I will allow only Shri Sharma and Shri Handoo to speak for three minutes each.

Now, Shri Handoo.

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO (Anantnag): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must thank you for the small mercy shown to me and my party.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no time allotted to your party because of the number of Members you have in the House.

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: The commission of murder, perhaps, is not a news in our country. (*Interruptions*) Perhaps, it would not have attracted the attention of the hon. House, but for the heinous crime committed yesterday in Meham. I also feel that Indian democracy is not so frail that a murder somewhere in the country will shatter the structure that we have adopted for ourselves. But the murder committed in Meham is important because it has been committed in a constituency where the Chief Minister of the State, not elected to the House yet, is contesting elections. This is the first thing. Secondly, this murder is more serious because it has been committed in a constituency which has become a part of our electoral history in the last three months. And thirdly this murder in Meham is important because it was committed in a constituency where a son of the Deputy Prime Minister of the country is contesting elections. If these three features were not associated with the murder, then, perhaps we would not have even thought of it. My submission before the House is that this three faceted matter should be taken special notice of. I am hundred per cent sure that the State Police or the Central Police will certainly conduct the investigation and somebody will be put up on trial and he will be put in the dock. One is hundred per cent sure about that. This will not go without trial. Perhaps that is not what worries us. What worries us is the other issue that flows from this cold-blooded murder committed in this constituency and that is which no police investigation can help us find. The real solution for that is that a committee of this House should be set up to go into the 'why' and 'how' of it.

The other point is that somebody must own moral responsibility for such a heinous crime. Here the Chief Minister of a State is contesting elections from Meham. He is son of the Deputy Prime Minister of the country. He also belongs to the party which rules the country. Now, somebody in the country should own responsibility for such kind of murder being committed on the eve of elections. That moral responsibility can be known—as Mr. Chidambaram said—from the steps taken by the Janata Dal and becoming known by news in the evening or news tomorrow morning. Police can investigate the case. Parliamentary Committee can investigate the issues arising out of it and, thirdly, the moral responsibility is of the party ruling the country. My humble submission before the House is that the matter is very serious and it should be taken in all seriousness. The police investigation may be conducted with right intentions by any police officer, be he from Haryana or from the CBI. This problem should be solved according to the submissions made and somebody must be gunned politically for this heinous murder.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now two hon. Members from Haryana have expressed their views in the House. Addressing to Shri Shastri and Shri Jai Prakash I want to recite a couplet:

Hakikat aashna hun, waqfe israre hasti
hun,
Samajhta hun magar duniya ko
samjhana nahin aata.

Shastriji has described the killings of Meham, as a murder of one person, but assassination of an individual does not create such disturbances. It was not the murder of one person, Shri Amir Singh, it was the democracy which was murdered there. What is regrettable is that Meham which has a name and fame has been stigmatized by the doings of these people. Now the situation is that our heads go down in shame with the very name

of Meham. Can anybody deny these facts..... (*Interruptions*) According to the medical report, it is clear that the deceased was shot from behind and from a very close range. I am myself criminal lawyer and so are you. This House can itself imagine how a man can be shot from behind and that too from a close range. Just now while speaking in this House, Choudhary Bansilal correctly said in whose company the deceased Shri Amir Singh was in the evening before his murder in Meham.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are repeating now.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: There is evidence to prove in whose company he was on the last day before murder. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, mention was made of the incidents which took place earlier to this murder. 7-8 murders were committed there on 28th February. On an earlier occasion, I had said in this House and I repeat it again that it is a question of democracy. 22 Jawans of H.A.P. were shown absent in Haryana, it is said that they are missing and their whereabouts are not known. But they have also been assassinated. If the records of H.A.P. are shown to me, I can also tell their names. Their parents are frantically enquiring about the whereabouts of their dear ones. After this incident of 28th February, H.A.P. was put under the control of B.S.F. and C.R.P.F. Five thousand policemen have raised slogans against the I.G. D.G.P. and Chief Minister of Haryana at Rohtak. After all why five thousand policeman gathered there and why H.A.P. was put under the control of B.S.F. and C.R.P.F.? Have they got any reply to these questions?

16.00 hrs.

Why did they do it? Why the returning officer was transferred just before the election? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the situation over there. Just now Shri Jai Prakash was saying that the investigation has been handed over to the Police, I would like to ask him as to what can one expect from the Police force who commits murders, is involved in the

bloodshed and is a blot on the country in the name of democracy. I would request in this House that for the sake of democracy and justice, an enquiry by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court should be ordered and a Joint Committee of Parliament constituted so that the truth could be made public and democracy in the country could be saved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words, I thank you for giving me time to speak. You are not allowing me more time, otherwise it is an issue on which a lot can be spoken. Therefore, with these words, I conclude my speech.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Home Minister may reply now.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvathipuzha): Sir, I have also given notice for adjournment motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All important points have been covered and probably, you want to make the same points. So, please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I hope that at least next time, I will be given an opportunity. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is all right. Now, the Home Minister may reply.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, all the hon. Members who spoke on the subject have expressed their concern over the recent happenings in Meham. No amount of condemnation will suffice in respect of this incident. But there are several hon. Members who have tried to create an atmosphere which has definitely weakened our democratic system. The masses of this country deserve to be con-

[Sh. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed]

gratulated for their peaceful conduct whenever general or assembly elections have been held in the last 40 years. During the 1977 elections nobody thought that the then Prime Minister would lose from her constituency. The recent Lok Sabha elections were held in a peaceful manner. The Party which was supported by the public won the elections. I can relate many incidents of candidates having been killed during the election process. Hon. Members on the other side may recall the election in Garhwal which was countermanded and in which the late Shri H.N. Bahuguna was a candidate. Election had to be held again. Our Government wants to plug the existing loopholes in the electoral system by introducing a legislation for this purpose in the current session. There is no need to throw a blanket over the Meham affair. When election was held there last time, the Chief Minister contested from there. Due to some developments, the election had to be countermanded. A fresh date was fixed for the election in Meham but the Chief Minister was contesting from two constituencies. The candidate called Amir Singh who was killed was an active worker of the Janata Dal. I regret to say that although a suggestion was given for an investigation by a Parliamentary Committee, several hon. Members like Shri Sathe, Shri Bhajan Lal and Shri Bansi Lal gave their version of the sequence of events even before the investigation could start. I have great regard for these hon. Members but I would like to ask them whether they were eye-witnesses to the incident. Otherwise how can they be so sure about the identity of the killer, the place where the victim had his dinner and the victim's movements until 2.00 a.m. on the fateful night and also the whereabouts of the dead body? Please listen to me as I listened to you when you were speaking.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Sir, he is the Home Minister of the country and he is asking how Shri Bhajan Lal knew of the whereabouts of the dead body. (*Interruptions*) The whole of Haryana knows this and he is asking me how I came to know of it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Hon. Shri Bansi Lal also said similar things. In murder cases even the judge cannot consider anyone for punishment unless circumstantial evidence or an eye-witness account is available. Hon. Shri Vasant Sathe spoke of a conspiracy behind the murder. Who will benefit from this murder is for the investigation to reveal. The brain behind this conspiracy has to be found out. Will the hon. Members of this House take a decision in this matter? The candidate who was murdered was contesting from one of the two constituencies from which Shri Chautala was contesting. Chautala won from the other constituency thus retaining his Chief Ministership. So who could have a motive in killing Amir Singh? Can this murder be attributed to Chautala who according to newspaper reports was set to win from the other constituency?.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not get up like this Shri Bhajan Lal. Please take your seat.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Nothing related to this murder should be discussed until all evidence has been considered and complete investigations have been carried out. With due respect, I would say that it is wrong to speak in this vein. This is to prejudice the issue.

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND (Chikkodi): He is talking as a lawyer, not as Home Minister of this country.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Is it the Home Minister's reply or the Defence Counsel's reply?.....Yesterday the Prime Minister talked of morale responsibility and constructive responsibility and we heard him in silence.... (*Interruptions*). Now, today nobody talks of or bears moral or constructive responsibility for this..... (*Interruptions*) I am sorry that the Home Minister should speak like this... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: I was saying that I would like to reply to the questions raised by hon. Shri Sathe, Shri Bhajan Lal and Shri Bansi Lal in their speeches. The person who was killed was an active worker of the Janata Dal and his dead body.... (*Interruptions*) ... Relatives of the victim and some other people had collected at the scene of the crime. All these people were angry with Dangi.... (*Interruptions*) ... I am giving the details of the incident. The brother of the victim lodged a report with the local police station. I am giving you the facts. Why don't you want to listen?

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is speaking like a Defence Lawyer.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him reply in whatever fashion he wants. We cannot compel him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: His brother lodged an FIR with the local police station. A case was registered under Section 302 against Dangi, his brother and two others. Elections in the Chief Ministers' constituencies have been countermanded previously also.

SHRI DINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): Elections have not been countermanded. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It was not countermanded. Fresh elections were ordered. This time it was countermanded. There is a vast difference between countermanding and holding of fresh elections.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: You should remember whatever has happened in the past. Why do you talk in anger? Please listen to me first... (*Interruptions*) ... The State's Chief Minister who was contesting in the elections should have made adequate security arrangements for all candidates. We are more interested than you in getting to the bottom of this affair. I assure the hon. Members that we shall definitely conduct an investigation into this matter. Hon. Members do not have any investigating agency or any other such means to go into this matter. I am not in favour of a House Committee for this issue. Such a thing has never been done..... (*Interruptions*) ... If a House Committee is formed, then there will be a committee over that also. Is that acceptable to you (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Mr. Home Minister, we want a House Committee.

SHRI P. R. KUMARMANGALAM: You be the Chairman of that committee.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Please listen to me. First let me finish what I am saying. There has been no such precedent. Where a murder has been committed in a State and a Sub-Committee has been formed in the Lok Sabha to go into it. (*Interruptions*) ... this happened during the time of Cromwell... (*Interruptions*) ... Please listen.

[*English*]

There is no precedent in the history of the House. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: It is not just a murder.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is not a murder of a person. Large issues are involved. I want the Prime Minister to answer. He should take the moral responsibility.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: We want a committee of the House. Are you afraid of it?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: We will find out who is responsible for this murder and why proper security arrangements were not made for the candidates.

AN HON. MEMBER: From whom?

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: We will ask the State Government that.... (*Interruptions*) ... One way is to hold a judicial inquiry. Some hon. Members were not in favour of the local police investigating the matter. Another way is to hold a C.B.I. inquiry. We give an assurance that the C.B.I. will be asked to hold an inquiry and the State Government would be asked to hold a judicial inquiry.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, all hon. Members who participated in this discussion should be thanked for having maintained such a high standard of debate. A common sentiment expressed in all speeches was the concern for democracy in this country and how to safeguard it. Most of the Members and even hon. Shri Rajmangal who is a very senior Member of the House, suggested that the democratic system of this country must be safeguarded. Whenever senior politicians or a State Chief Minister is involved in such incidents, a Parliamentary Committee should be formed to go into the matter. People have favoured such a committee for the Amethi incident also... (*Interruptions*) ...

AN HON. MEMBER: It was not the people but Shri Mufti who said so.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: I said that no such precedent should be estab-

lished. You asked me this, it is there in the record.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: There has been no such precedent till now. I am very much shocked because we were expecting a reply from the Hon'ble Home Minister that will lead to the solution of the problem, not that he would reply as a defence lawyer. Excuse me Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, his reply was such as if treasury-key was to be handed over to the thief or as if a person charged with murder is asked to investigate the matter. (*Interruptions*) I am just stating as an example. (*Interruptions*) Should a person charged with murder be selected as the Chairman of an Enquiry Committee. (*Interruptions*) I am just stating as an example. What's the exact position today? (*Interruptions*) Two or three persons were killed. One of the candidates was murdered and charges are being levelled against the other contesting candidate. This is the condition in Meham. (*Interruptions*) The election has been countermanded and the candidate who was likely to win from there. (*Interruptions*) ... Should the police attack his house and open fire there. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, do they consider him as a murder? For that our Hon'ble Home Minister says that he will order an enquiry.

I want to say to the Hon'ble Prime Minister that he talks of value-based politics and of constructive approach. Now his colleague has resigned on a trifling matter. (*Interruptions*) I would like to say to the Prime Minister that the members of his colleague's family are directly involved in the matter. I do not say that they are accused (*Interruptions*) I do not demand his resignation. I simply ask for a healthy convention. Everyone is demanding that a committee of the House should be constituted. We do not demand dismissal although it would have been good for the sake of impartial enquiry. It is such an unprecedented election that justice cannot be done by an enquiry by any State Government. It has become quite clear. Now the Home Minister says that he will get the matter enquired through the State Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV
(Khagaria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, On a Point
of Order, Sir..

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no
point of order.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I would like to
ask the Hon'ble Prime Minister seriously the
action he intends to take against the Deputy
Prime Minister. If we really want to establish
such a process and healthy convention for
the health of democracy, then I still appeal
that is is general opinion of the Parliament...
(*Interruptions*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISH-
WANATH PRATAP SINGH): Why have you
not persued such healthy connections dur-
ing the last 5 years?

Sir, the Home Minister has assured that
this matter will be investigated through C.B.I.
We shall have to rely on our Institutions.
There will be proper process of enquiry.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Poojary,
please allow the Prime Minister to say what-
ever he wants to say.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:
I would like to say about Fetehpur incident
which was raised in the House yesterday. I
had visited Fetehpur. The incident is very
painful, a woman was burnt to death there. I
am deeply pained to note that efforts have
been made to give a different colour to this
tragic incident.

Sir, this matter was raised in the House
yesterday in the presence of all the hon.
Members present. I would like to express my
own views in that regard. A different picture
of the event was given in the matter that a

Harijan woman was living at the other end of
the village. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Prime
Minister finish it first.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:
They do not want to know the truth. (*Interrup-
tions*) Sir, when there are investigative agen-
cies and the investigation is carried by some
other agency, what will be its outcome and
what will be the procedure thereof?

Whenever investigation is done by some
agency other than the investigating agen-
cies, it will be counter productive like this.
(*Interruptions*)

Let us take up the points made by you
yesterday. It pains us. No doubt it is a fact
that the assailants murdered that woman. It
is also being said that she was raped. Then
who is responsible for outraging her mod-
esty? (*Interruptions*)

How can her dignity be restored? She
has left behind a two month old girl child,
when she comes of her age, what will she
say with regard to the views which have
been expressed about her mother in the
Parliament. The words "that her mother had
been raped" have spread all over the coun-
try.

All the people in the village said that she
was not raped.

(*Interruptions*)

Sir, it is, therefore, necessary that the
investigation is conducted by the investiga-
tive agencies which have been duly author-
ised by law to perform such duties. The hon.
Minister of Home Affairs has said that the
investigation will be conducted by the C.B.I.
which is the appropriate investigative agency.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of you, please sit down. Look, since an hon. Member from that side had raised a point of order, Shri Sathe had resumed his seat, though this speech had not yet completed. Thereafter, the hon. Prime Minister stood up to make his point. So Shri Sathe is yet to conclude his speech.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs had suggested that the enquiry should be conducted by the C.B.I. Secondly, he had also said that he would ask the State Government not to conduct the enquiry by its own agencies, but to get a judicial enquiry conducted into the incident. The hon. Prime Minister did not say anything in this connection. It will be better if he also makes that point clear.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Statement of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should be treated as a statement from the Government itself.

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE (Beed): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Shri Vasant Sathe is making his point after the reply has been made. (*Interruptions*)

Even after the reply by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Sathe is getting up time and again to make his point. He should be prevented from doing so. He cannot make his point in that way. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Mr. Sathe, you can continue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, I am greatly distressed to see that when the hon. Prime Minister got up, I expected that he would say something about it. But he wanted to make a statement on Fetehpur. He wanted to come out with the findings of the enquiry he had made. A debate on that could be held at some other time. To that we have no objection. I would like to repeat that there was a discussion on this point today in the House and the hon. Prime Minister was not present at that time. Several hon. Members including Shri Advani and Shri Somnath have spoken on this subject. All of them were of the view that the House Committee should examine it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: We did not say so. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I think it is most improper because murder investigation into a cannot be done by the Members of a Parliamentary Committee..... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: If you feel that a Committee of the House will not be able to do justice or the inquiry cannot be conducted by that Committee.....

[*English*]

I request that a sitting Supreme Court Judge assisted by central authorities should investigate into this matter.

[*Translation*]

I am telling you that it is a very serious matter. The Government should not think that since it is in power, it could do anything it liked. I would like to request you and the head of the Government to take the matter seriously and do justice in this regard. It should be ensured that the Meham incident and the other incidents that are taking place elsewhere in Haryana, are not repeated. If no action is

taken against the person who is held responsible for the incident, I would say with great regret that day by day it will be more and more difficult for us to pull on and co-operate with this Government. It is my submission to you.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Regarding the suggestion given by Shri Vasant Sathe, I have already told here that the investigation will be conducted by the C.B.I. Secondly, if the hon. Members feel that in order to win the confidence of the people, the enquiry should be got conducted by the Supreme Court, we will ask the State Government and for that matter the Chief Minister that if they want to hold an enquiry they should have it conducted by a Judge of the Supreme Court.

SHRI BANSI LAL: What enquiry he will get conducted? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: If the State Government does not agree....What will you do?.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: If the State Government does not agree that the enquiry should be conducted by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court, what will be done? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHASTRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You have never accepted a proper House Committee on various charges of corruption. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: He has suggested that Amethi should also be included in it. We would also like to suggest that Amethi should be covered under it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in response to the submission made by Shri Sathe the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has made his point. Thereaf-

ter, if this august House accepts this view, in view of the fact that Shri Sathe has since agreed that he has no objection to including Amethi in the inquiry as the demand has come from various quarters. Here I am not trying to score any point. I know that the Meham incident has become a matter of great concern and as it has been said by Shri Handoo it has become a matter of specific concern because of the fact that the Chief Minister of the State is himself a candidate in the election. Had it been the case of an ordinary person, it would not have been a matter of that seriousness. Similarly, the incident that has taken place in Amethi is a grave one in view of the fact that the then Prime Minister was himself a candidate from that Constituency.

(*Interruptions*)

Had Shri Sathe not said this thing in his speech, I would not have raised this point here and confined my views to Meham incident only. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs also confined his views to Meham only. But I feel that a history will be created in the Lok Sabha if we take a unanimous decision in regard to the bringing both Amethi and Meham within the purview of that investigation. If the Congress Party agrees, I would welcome the decision that has been taken in respect of Meham.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I support this. It should also cover Amethi.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am prepared to agree to your views. In the case of Amethi the matter is sub-judice and it is also under the consideration of the Election Commission. If the views expressed by Shri Advani are accepted and the investigation into the incidents that had taken place in Meham and Amethi will be conducted by the same judge of the Supreme Court, all these cases filed in this connection stand withdrawn. We agree to the suggestion that the matter should be

[Sh. Vasant Sathe]

investigated by a judge of the Supreme Court.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. What is this that you are doing? I am going to put this motion to the vote. The question is:

"That this House do now adjourn"

The motion was negatived

(Interruptions)

16.43 hrs.

[English]

RE. STATEHOOD FOR DELHI

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): The hon. Prime Minister had given an assurance in this House about Delhi Union Territory being given Statehood. As you know, Delhi is the Capital of the country and the basic policy of giving Statehood to Delhi has been decided. But, there are some matters which are to be sorted out, for instance, law and order position and certain land which is to be used by the Central Government. We will sort out that matter. But, Delhi will be given full Statehood and we will do that.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister had made a statement on 12.4.90 that Delhi would be given statehood. I would like to know from him whether a Bill to that effect is going to be brought forward in this session or not? It may also please be clarified whether the Bill will also be got passed

just after its introduction in the House?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Satya Pal Malik will make a statement regarding Government Business for the next week.

16.45 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing Monday, the 21st May, 1990, will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of:
 - (1) The Gold (Control) Repeal Bill, 1990.
 - (2) The Prasad Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Bill, 1989.
 - (3) The Lokpal Bill, 1989
 - (4) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1990, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): What about Andaman and Nicobar Islands? (Interruptions)