

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOKSABHA

Friday July 31, 1991, Sravana 9, 1914
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

RE. PREMATURE RETIREMENT
SOUGHT BY SHRI MADHAVAN, JOINT
DIRECTOR, CBI, INVESTIGATING SECURITY SCAM

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhe pura):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, those hon. Ministers, who
are involved in security scam and about
whom Shri Madhavan has written, may
please be introduced. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):
Why Shri Madhavan has resigned? The
Prime Minister should come and tell the
House. Where is the Prime Minister? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not able to hear
anything

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera):
We have given notice under rule 388 to
suspend Question Hour. (Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Supposing, I have to
decide and I have to say that this thing will be
done or this thing will not be done, the first
thing is I should be able to hear. And if I am
not able to hear, then I am not able to decide
also. Now, if one of you can stand up and
say, I can hear.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker,
Sir, for the last three months, the entire
country has been convulsed with this epi-
sode, which I regard as perhaps the worst
scandal in the history of independent India.
There have been other scandals. But this
security scam is far worse than the others
because in all other cases some people may
have made money, some institutions may
have been adversely affected, the economy
also may have been affected, but this is the
first scandal where not only these three
things have happened, but tens of thou-
sands of middle-class families, poor fami-
lies, have been ruined completely. And,
therefore, when the the Prime Minister told
this House that he was keen to see that all
those who were guilty are booked, or all
those who were guilty are exposed, the
country accepted it, Parliament accepted it.
Therefore, even though two or three weeks
have elapsed, and even though we had
information that something was cooking
behind the scenes, there was no uproar in
this House on this particular issue. This
morning's newspapers, the Statesman for
instance, carries a report.

MR. SPEAKER: My request to you and to the House would be to continue with the Question Hour. Immediately after the Question Hour we will take it up. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIBASUDEBACHARIA: The Ministers are exposed. How can they be allowed to function? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: You will appreciate that it has been my view also, that as far as possible the Question Hour should not be suspended because it belongs to the Members. Therefore, the Members should be allowed to have it. But at the same time, considering the fact that there have been in the past so many occasions when the Question Hour has been utilised to express the Members' concern or grievances about an extraordinary matter, I do not recall a more extraordinary matter than this. But, as I said, I would like to present what are the issues and I would like to say what in such a situation the Government should have done. Even before this House met the Government should have anticipated that the House would express the concern of the whole nation and therefore seek suspension of the Question Hour, as many of my colleagues have formally done.

But the Government seems to take everything for granted. Either they should have approached us saying that 'this is the situation, these are the facts, allow us to make a statement, we propose to make a statement.'

I do not think that the general discussion on the scam would cover this particular matter of Shri Madhavan. Shri Madhavan is the Joint Director of the CBI. He was investigating and we had known that he was under great pressure. I do not want to name anyone. But the moment he came, I was all along intrigued that during the last three months certain bank officials have been booked, certain brokers have been put behind the bars, but not a single politician, not a single bureaucrat has been touched. Not one! I was wondering now this can be

possible? And now, this particular episode, of Shri Madhavan comes up.

I do not know how far my colleagues here are aware of the background of Shri Madhavan. He has been connected with Bofors and therefore he has come to light. But his record is totally unblemished. He is an upright officer with an exceptional record and he was given a gold medal by the President this year on the 26th January.

My information is that in the course of his investigation he came across very specific and direct evidence against three ministers of this Government (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Who are they? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: He was asked not to include this in his report. I have seen the official explanation given for Shri Madhavan's request for premature retirement. It is said that he was not being promoted and, therefore, he has sought premature retirement. I am in Parliament and, therefore, all that I can say is that this is absolutely untrue because if I were outside I would say this is palatable. Here, I would say it is untrue. (*Interruptions*). It is not only untrue but it is adding insult to injury by making an accusation against him of this kind. He has investigated cases against many.

AN. hon. MEMBER: This word is unparliamentary. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Advaniji, it becomes very difficult for me...

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: You drop those words. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Not only that.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I withdraw those words. I say 'untrue'.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am not on the words only.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: My point is that before we take up this discussion on the Scam, the Government must come out with an honest authentic version of what has happened in respect of Shri Madhavan. Why has he sought pre-mature retirement? Why? The official version is absolutely incredible, it is unacceptable to us and it is unpalatable to us. Therefore, the Government must come out with the full facts. What has happened in respect of many investigations? I do not want to mention names now. I have names. I can mention names but I do not want to mention names because I want the Government to come out first as to what has prompted what has impelled a senior officer, a bright officer in respect of whom the official also says that we are persuading him to withdraw his resignation. He is being persuaded and if he were to ask my advice I would ask him to accept not to quit, stick on there, continue to be there. This would be my advice if he were to ask my advice. We would like officer of this kind to continue. I mention the Indian Express also. He investigated very many cases than Bofors alone. He investigated a case against the Indian Express. He Investigated the case against Union Carbide and very successfully brought to light very many failings of that multi-nationals concern. Therefore, it is shocking for the whole country that an officer of that level, of that calibre should be forced by this Government to resign because they want to hide the politicians and the bureaucrats behind this biggest scandal of Indian history.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ever since we have come to know about it through the newspapers, we are all perturbed and worried and today we want from the Government a clarification in this regard. It is true that Bank scam has destroyed our economy and ruined the people. It will certainly tarnish our image outside the country. It is also true that the name of Shri Madhavan is associated with this case but he is not involved in it. But the issue is more complicated as he is being pressurised and influ-

enced. The conduct of the entire Government has been called into question which should be cleared by it, today. The Government should clarify whether an officer in the Prime Minister's office called Shri Madhavan and instructed him that if the name of any political leader is found involved in the scam, it should not be disclosed until it is cleared by them? Is it not a fact that he was asked to include the names of certain top officials while he was instructed to exclude certain other names and out of this frustration he tendered his resignation. But the Government says that he gave his resignation because he was not given promotion. Such insignificant things should not be said. I know that official because he was handling the Bofors case. He had done an excellent job by getting the Swiss accounts seized and by bringing the documents of A.E. Service to India. First, I was very happy that the Government has entrusted him this case of securities scam. But it could last long. He was removed from the investigation of Bofors case and was transferred to the Department of Economic Investigation. He was asked to look after this department but then this scam took place.

Sir, all this is not merely restricted to scam. It will be an example as to how an honest person can be harassed. This will affect adversely not only Shri Madhavan but all the honest officers like him. Therefore, it is issue of failure of the entire system which needs to be handled carefully. So it is essential that the Government or the hon. Prime Minister should give clarification. He was pressurised by the Prime Minister's office. I do not say and I do not bet that the hon. Prime Minister was aware of all this. He might not be knowing it. But if the hon. Prime Minister knows that he was pressurised by his own office, it is his duty to look into it or give clarification in this regard. Now it has become the big question. Today, corruption is weakening the country. The Question Hour should be suspended to discuss this issue further. (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, today my question is at number 3.

I do not want the Question Hour to continue.
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE(Bolpur): Mr. speaker, Sir, nobody can deny the importance of the matter. The Finance Minister, in his own statement of 8th of July has admitted that a fraud of very high magnitude has taken place- he is not in disagreement- and that the Government is supposedly very serious in unearthing the persons involved in it. One Minister has resigned. He may not be a party to the scam but he has already had to resign. One Member of the Planning Commission has had to go. CBI has been assigned this job of investigation. A special Court has been set up. An Ordinance has been passed for attachment of properties of persons involved. This is the type of serious situation. Public funds to the extent of over Rs. 3,500 crores have been lost. It may be Rs.5,000 crores, 6,000 crores or 7,000 crores, we do not know. But we have been watching that the CBI has been making very serious efforts. Many persons have been arrested, many places have been searched, and considerable progress has been made in the matter. Now when we find that important names are coming up, Ministers' names, Power Finance Corporation is supposedly involved in it- I do not know myself, so I cannot say on my own but these are coming up- in the newspaper it comes that the person who has been entrusted with the investigation of this very very serious matter is suddenly going away on the ground of voluntary retirement, although three years are still left for his tenure. I do not understand how this Government is functioning.

What is the style of their functioning? Is it not expected that the entire country is agitated when a fraud of such magnitude has taken place? But they are sitting like Sphinx. They have no feelings. They should have come out on their own with a *suo motu* statement. Where is the Home Minister? Why not they come out and tell the position to this House?

MR. SPEAKER: No, not in the question hour.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Why not, Sir, during the question hour?
(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, have they given you a notice that they will make a statement at 12 noon, on their own? They have not told us.

[Translation]

SHRISHARAD YADAV: We have given a notice to suspend the Question Hour.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They have not discussed the matter with others. No one is given a chance. They never did that. That is not their habit. They do not know it. Therefore, we are convinced that the Government does not wish to tell the truth to the country or to the House. Therefore, they are keeping silent. This is a very very serious matter. (Interruptions) The media has come out with a story- apparently the Government's story, the official version- that he wanted a promotion, an accelerated promotion, which has not been granted and, therefore, he has- sort of- put in his papers.

Very senior and responsible Members of this House have said that of their own knowledge it cannot be so and I have no reason to dis-believe the version of Shri Advani or Shri V.P Singh. Therefore, this is a matter which cannot be treated as a routine matter. I demand of this Government that if they are really serious in holding a proper enquiry into the scam -the biggest scandal not only of this country but of the whole world- to please tell the truth. The Counsel for the C.B.I. has said before the court that this is the biggest financial scandal where different agencies of the Government- from the Finance Ministry and downwards- are apparently involved. This is the way in which the Government is functioning. We have had experience in this country.

Sir, Shri Madhavan was removed from Bofors enquiry. The House was agitated, the country was agitated. Now a similar method is being followed. When he was, probably, at the point of achieving a breakthrough or when inconvenient names are to come out, at that time pressure is being put on him and he is forced to quit and in disgust and protest he has put in his papers. This is a very serious matter. The country must be taken into confidence and the Government must give a commitment that he will continue to be in charge of this and there should be no interference from the Government as apparently they are doing now. Otherwise he would not have taken this action. This is a very serious matter. The government must respond. Thank you.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scam itself was a great shock to this Government, to its prestige, credibility and integrity. What has appeared in the papers toady, I think, is the last nail in the coffin. I do not personally know Shri Madhavan. I know him only as an officer who was worked efficiently, honestly and with integrity. Nobody can doubt his integrity, honesty and uprightness. If such an officer is forced to put in his papers in order to get retirement three years before it is due, and over and above the Government is said to be persuading him not to resign, it is a very peculiar situation. I do not know what type of Government this is. It is not they are trying to convince the officer not to resign. But they are making a public statement that they are persuading him through his friends. I do not think that officers are to be persuaded through friends. If they have got genuine grievances, those grievance should be met by the Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not such a simple matter for the Government to wait.....

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: May I mention one thing in this context? According to my knowledge, Shri Madhavan is told that his premature retirement is not yet due and, therefore, the Government cannot accept it and if he wants he can resign, so that he does not get any retirement benefits also. I

do not know whether it is correct or not. (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL (Erandol): Sir, it is not correct. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Are you also involved in securities scam? I think he is definitely involved (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not privy to the personal talks or negotiations that has taken place between the Ministry of Personnel or the Prime Minister's Office and the Officer concerned. I am just pointing it out to you and to the House the method of governing a country; whether an officer, if he is having some genuine grievance, why should the Government not have met that grievance? If, according to them, it was only for promotion, why did they not sack the officer? Both the authority they have got. But, unfortunately, they have certain skeletons to conceal. That will be the impression in the country. I do not know what is the position.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this becomes all the more serious when you are in the process of constituting a Joint Parliamentary Committee; you are going to appoint a Chairman. Unfortunately, today itself it has come in the newspaper that ruling party does not want a man from the Opposition to be the Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. I do not know what is going on between various leaders of the political parties and the ruling party, but if all such things come out at the same time, it will not only affect the credibility of the Government, but I am sorry to say that it will put a question mark over the functioning of the Joint Parliamentary Committee also.

Mr Speaker, so it is the duty of the Government and especially of the Prime Minister to make this matter clear. When openly it is being said that a senior officer of the Prime Minister's Office has given certain instructions, is it not the duty of the Prime

Minster to deny it? It is a peculiar way of functioning. Time and again, on every issue three or four versions are given about the intentions about the commitment and about the assurances given by the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister just keeps quiet over it and he thinks that the people will forget about it. Perhaps, he is succeeding in it, but whether his success is going to be beneficial to this institution in which we are sitting today; whether this Parliament will function in this manner that the Leader of the House keeps mum, not only he keeps mum, but keeps himself absent from all the proceedings which are of controversial nature or of serious nature. Mr. Speaker, I have also some experience of the parliamentary functioning, but this is for the first time in the history of Parliament that the Leader of the House has absented himself on such crucial occasions. It had never happened during the tenure of any other Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: In today's questions, he has no questions.

SHRI CHANRA SHEKHAR: I am not talking of today, Mr. Speaker. Today will be tomorrow, because, again I know that nothing will happen in this House and the Prime Minister will be happy that the Government is going on merrily well and the House is not functioning. I know the methodology that is being adopted. This is done to make this House redundant. It is a sinister move, Mr. Speaker. I say with all sense of responsibility that it is to make the Parliament totally redundant; it is to bring down the prestige and honour of this great House to the ridicule in the eyes of the people. I hope, Mr. speaker, that you should assert your authority at least to make the Government realise that they may come and they may go, but this institution is to remain if the country has to prosper and in this regard, I think nothing should be done to pin-prick with the bureaucracy and if some bureaucrat has a genuine grievance, it is not the way to malign him. The slanderous campaign on the part of the Government is totally unbecoming.

I assure you, Mr. speaker, I have never

seen Mr. Madhavan, or if I would have seen him in some crowd, I do not know. I have never found him meeting me any time, but I know from his record- though my experience was not as great as that of Mr. V.C. Shukla and my friend Mr. Sharad Pawar and others, but I was also in the Government for a few months and I can say with full sense of responsibility that this officer is one of the top officers in the Government and if he comes to this pass, I do not know what is going to happen to this bureaucracy. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, I have to submit two things in this regard..(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: would you like to hear the Government?

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Please allow me to submit two things before the Government puts forth its views. (*Interruptions*) Sir, please give me opportunity to express any views before a statement is made by the Government.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: My primary concern is to see that we in the House do the business which is mentioned on the agenda. Now if it is the wish of all the Members to do something else and if it happens every day, then it becomes very difficult.

In view of the fact that all the leaders and all the Members and concerned, I am allowing. But if it becomes unending, if one hand after the other, the hands are raised, I do not know whom to allow and whom not to allow. If it becomes unending, it becomes very difficult to regulate. But I am allowing him.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can understand your problem, but since this is a very serious matter, it is very necessary for us to submit a few points before a statement is made by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the resignation of Shri Madhavan is lying with the Government since 20th. We would like to know about the steps taken by the Government during the period from the date of submission of resignation by Shri Madhavan to the date when we are raising this issue after being reported by the newspapers?

We do not know as to whether he has submitted his resignation or given a note, we know only what has been reported in the newspapers. Since people are getting information about what is going on, I would like to put forth certain things before the Government. You did not entrust Shri Madhavan with any responsibility. I was wrong in making judgement. This Government had done only one good job in its whole tenure by appointing Shri Madhavan for investigating this scandal. Actually Government had not entrusted him with any responsibility. It had sent him to 'Kala Pani' but there too was a scandal and he was again entrusted with a responsibility. As soon as he started his work, attempts were made to stop him from functioning.

Mr. speaker, Sir, many other small and big scandals are linked with such a big scandal of Harshd Mehta, viz stock market and security scam. These are separate scandals in their own way. Fairgrowth Scandal is another scandal of its kind in which a large number of Government functionaries and officials are involved. So Government took two decisions. But I do not know the level at which these decisions were taken.

Prime Minister says that truth would be brought before the nation at all costs. But I would like to tell the Prime Minister that Minister of Personnel under whose adminis-

trative control comes the CBI, has tried to stall the enquiry during the past two years. Can he deny this act? You did not entrust the case of UCO Bank to him but handed over the case to the person who had tried to cover up the Bofors case at your instance. Take the case of U.C.O. Bank and Margbandhu.

MR. SPEAKER: I would allow you to raise, all these issues, but please give a notice first.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have given you a notice,

MR. SPEAKER: Which notice have you given?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have given you a notice that our adjournment motion should be accepted.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, not in this way.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given you another notice under rule 388, since there would be no Question Hour today.

MR. SPEAKER: No. If you are levelling any allegation against the Government, Government must know it before hand so that it could defend itself.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, I am not levelling any allegation, I am giving facts only.

[English]

I am only stating the facts.

MR. SPEAKER: No body is disallowing you to do it. But you do it in a manner.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am only making a statement of facts. I am not making allegation. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That should be by giving a notice. Any-way, I am allowing you. But then beyond a certain limit, they are as

well as entitled to ask me as to, "How you are allowing it"?

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: *Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the case of Fairgrowth came to light, same thing happened. On the one side you talk of accepting the resignation while the other your Press Information Officer tells a group of correspondents that they should not write that his resignation has been accepted nor they should write that he has resigned because of Government's interference in the case rather they should write that he has resigned due to dispute over his promotion.*

[*English*]

This has centered on CBI sources or official sources, the informed sources say.

[*Translation*]

While quoting sources of news item they should write the source as informed sources. To this extent briefing is done. Raid was conducted of Fairgrowth. Two months' time has passed after the scandal. You got time only yesterday to conduct raid on Fairgrowth. It was conducted to show that they were serious and were on the job despite his resignation. They tried to conceal all the information and burn all the documents with a view to destroy all the proofs. On the one hand Government is working to destroy all the evidence by burning them or destroying them while on the other hand it talks of the resignation and conducts raid on the Fairgrowth. It all raises doubts about the Government's intention and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can understand your problems, but you should also appreciate our problem. This is the question of the intention of the Government, not of an allegation. We do not want to hear the Minister, we want to hear the hon. Prime Minister. Prime Minister should come and clarify as to whether Shri Madhavan would handle this case or not. He would not work under any

pressure. He should not be issued any instructions as to which names should be withheld, which names should be sent directly to PM Office and which names are to be highlighted. Shri Krishnamurti can go and be he should go. The fact which have been revealed are only the tip of the iceberg. Krishnamurthi would reveal the name of many other persons. Shri Krishnamurthi would go but the people of Finance Ministry who were behind the Canara Mutual Fund scandal would continue in office.

With this submission I would like to conclude that we are very much concerned about it. You are going to constitute the JPC.

MR. SPEAKER: House is going to constitute it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: CBI has registered a case against Power Finance Corporation. The issue for which the case has been registered against Power Finance Corporation was approved by whom? Whose signatures are there on the file? The person who gave orders to sanction this loan has been appointed Cabinet Secretary. What would JPC do in the matter? When the Power Secretary of the Power Finance Corporation can be become a Cabinet Secretary, what can JPC do? I am not levelling any allegation against him. I am only stating the facts because there is always a system for doing a work. You please tell us because you are going to constitute a committee of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not so, The House is going to constitute the committee.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: *You are the symbol of the House. When you are the symbol of the House, these facts should be placed before you. If you do not allow us to place the facts before you, then how can we have faith on your intention in such circumstances. So I request you that you should call the Prime Minister in the House and ask him to give us a straight and clearcut assurance and after that we will allow the work to proceed according to the agenda.*

SHRI RABI RAY (KENDRAPADA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can realise your problem. We are demanding suspension of Question Hour because... (Interruptions) I want to raise the matter in respect of proceedings. I would like to remind you that when the Hon. Prime Minister was speaking on the debate on No-Confidence Motion, Shri George Fernandes asked the last question whether the Government would take suitable action in regard to the shortcomings in the C.B.I. investigation. The Prime Minister at once assured that he had noted the complaint of Shri George Fernandes and would issue directions immediately in this regard. Now after 8-10 days the same topic is again raised here. It is related with Shri Madhavan. While replying to the query of Shri George Fernandes during the debate. The Prime Minister has clearly given an assurance that he would try to remove all the shortcomings of C.B.I. investigation as mentioned by the court.

But now you see what is happening before us? All the newspapers are publishing the reports that Shri Madhavan has been asked not to arrest anyone unless some highest officer of the Prime Minister's Secretariat permits him to do so. As far as the case of fair growth is concerned, it has been said that nothing should be brought as evidence in case any Minister was concerned with it. All these restrictions are coming in the way of investigation. You please ask the P.M. to fulfil his assurance given in the House. How will the Parliamentary democracy survive in these circumstances? I am sorry to say that in spite of the Prime Minister's assurance the shortcomings have not been removed and Shri Madhavan has not been entrusted with full powers to work. It is not the fault of Shri Madhavan. He is pained with this sorry state of affairs. The evidence is not being placed before the prosecutor and the Court in a proper way. Now it is clear that the cat is out of the bag. It is an unprecedented situation. So I urge upon you to suspend the Question Hour. The Prime Minister is in charge of the C.B.I. so he should be asked to be present in the House to enable us to have some clarification from him. I conclude with these words..... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Let him hear our stand first and then reply... (Interruptions) Sir, this matter is of a very serious nature. Today, we saw in the newspapers that an officer like Shri Madhavan, an officer of integrity, was forced to resign. He was investigating into the greatest scandal of our country, in fact of the world.

MR. SPEAKER: At least, you please ask whether he was forced to resign

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It is the greatest scandal in the world. This is a scandal of the nature of running into thousands of crores of rupees. But he was now being allowed to inquire into this scandal, into the security scam. The names of some Ministers also have appeared. It was reported that some Ministers also have appeared. It was reported that some Ministers were coercing him not to investigate, not to uncton freely in order to see that the truth does not come out. He was being prevented from inquiring into the scam. So, this matter is of a serious nature. Further, we have been demanding for the last to months that the truth should come out.

Who are responsible for this scandal? Who are responsible for this security scam? The prestige of this nation, of our country has been lowered because of some persons. And the persons who are in the Government are responsible, some bureaucrats are responsible. Not only one Harshad Mehta but there are number of officers, there are number of persons who are in the Government, who are in the Ministries, who are involved in this. Only one Minister has resigned. Only Shri Krishnamoorthy has resigned. There are number of Krishnamoorthys who were involved in this greatest scam, in this greatest scandal. And Shri Madhavan who was enquiring into this scandal, into this scam, was being prevented from that. The Prime Minister should come because he is in charge

of the CBI, and tell this House why he was forced to resign and whether the Government would allow Shri Madhavan to continue the work which was entrusted to him. The Prime Minister should come and tell this House. Not only that. The entire nation is agitating over it. The Prime Minister should come and tell this House about this (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER; Well, you have repeated it four or five times

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHRIA: When this news appeared a week back, we had demanded that Prime Minister should come and tell this House.

MR. SPEAKER: How should we know that you are going to raise this issue now?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You explain why the Question Hour should be suspended.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: All the Newspapers have carried this news. The Prime Minister should..(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the rule.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE(Dumdum): The point we want to emphasise is.....

MR. SPEAKER: My difficulty is, I had fixed this matter for four days continuously. You had not discussed it. All the time when the matter was on the agenda, you discussed something else. Today also we have fixed it for discussion, you are not discussing it on time. You are pushing aside something which is on the agenda. I am really very pained to see that we have fixed this matter for discussion today, you have the opportu-

nity to discuss it today and yet you are not allowing the Question Hour to take place. Not only today. For four days continuously we did it. Not only that. I once warned "if you do not discuss it I am not going to fix it." Whenever it is fixed you do not discuss it, whenever it is not there you do it to which I object.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You are very much right. We wanted the discussion not for the sake of discussion. We did not want the investigation for the sake of investigation only..(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can do the same thing when the time for discussion comes.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: But please permit us to state this much that we are not plain seekers of truth only. We want that such things do not happen in future and in order to do that we are in search of truth. Now you tell us, if while Investigating, it is demonstrated to people like Shri Harshad Mehta or people who are in the Ministry that such things may be allowed in future, we will not forbid the Karnataka Government to allow the CBI to function, we will not allow the sincere officers to investigate into the matter in future, then what picture will it give, what signals will it give? (*interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All these things you can say when the time comes. I have fixed the time.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATERJEE: Why do we investigate....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): If there is a discussion they will try to scuttle the whole issue. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Today also you can discuss it after fifteen minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:

At the same time, condition should be created so that no such things happen. Signals should be given so that such things do not recur. Otherwise, what would be the justification of such a discussion?

What really worries us and I believe the Finance Ministry officials also is the fact that despite what is happening, despite all the scandals, the only signals that go around the country are that if one scandal is caught, do not worry, they are permitted to generate other scandals. What is the purpose of such a discussion? What is the purpose of such an investigation? It is for that reason, we want to be assured by the Prime Minister, who holds the direct charge of the C.B.I.

We know that all kinds of signals are granted. In the case of Bofors also, do you want us to seriously believe that the identity cannot be discovered? Do you want us to believe and the country to believe that at this crucial stage, this person is trying to offer his resignation because, a promotion was not granted? Please do not treat the countrymen and ourselves as *...

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going to form part of the record.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:

Nobody would believe it. And the signals that we want from the Prime Minister is that there will be a full-fledged investigation otherwise, even the JPC becomes meaningless, to arrive at the truth and will permit it to continue. That is why we want an assurance from the Prime Minister, at this present moment, that those signals are not really meant.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday when the proceedings of the House were over, we thought that discussion on Ayodhya and drought situation under Rule 193 as per agenda was

over and today the debate on scam would take place. We are prepared for it. But in between there have been some developments in the matter yesterday night. Today the entire country came to know it through the media. You rightly said as to how the P.M. and the Government would come to know. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is already aware of it. The Government on this sensitive question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't reply to my question. You put your own point.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were thinking that the J.P.C. would be constituted and would have a discussion on the scam. Now a new development in the case has taken place that the incharge of the investigation is being compelled to seek voluntary retirement. I am of the opinion that this way of functioning would not serve the purpose properly. In view of all these changes in the circumstances the Prime Minister's or the Govt's Statement is needed first only then the discussion on the scam, or constitution of J.P.C. to look into this case can be meaningful we would like that this work should be completed as soon as possible. Today three weeks have passed, but still the names of the members of the J.P.C....

MR. SPEAKER: You are busy in other things.

SHRI RAM NAIK: All this was on the agenda. But it is also necessary. So I urge that the Government should first make a statement then the discussion should be started.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I wanted to raise a discussion about the Power Finance Corporation, you have said that it can be part of today's discussion. But today we find that the enquiry into the Power Finance Corporation has been taken out together with the investigation into UCO and the Fair Growth. This is a conspiracy to scuttle the total investiga-

tion. What is the use of the discussion here if in the meantime, they try to scuttle it? I want to raise it yesterday, but you have said that it is part of today's discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: I would have allowed you to raise it after fifteen minutes.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It was a part of the investigation. Now it was taken out of the investigation. It is a part of the conspiracy to scuttle the investigation.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): The investigation can never be fruitful, if the Finance Minister is in office.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatanam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I am thankful to Shri Madhavan, by whose action, at least today, the whole opposition is able to come together to discuss this Scam issues. When thousands of our Countrymen have committed suicide because of this Scam, this opposition never bothered to discuss the issue.

No one bothered; I am a witness of that. Let us understand the character of both the ruling party and the opposition party. Even if you do not allow me to discuss the issue here, I will hold meeting in front of the Parliament gate and conduct an unofficial Parliament session there. Do not think that people are not watching us.

The Prime Minister came to the House on that day with all seriousness to discuss this matter. I am already on record saying as to how dramatically that was scuttled by the opposition. We should put an end to such a hypocrisy. If both the ruling party and the opposition do not act, people will not keep quiet. This is the place where the Constitution has failed to function in this country and not in Ayodhya or elsewhere. People have made us the custodians of their money. But both the ruling party and the opposition have failed to discharge their function. Therefore if we are not functioning and have completely failed to find a solution to this, the people may ask military to take over the reins

of the administration. They may go to that extent also. So this is the occasion for military to interfere in the affairs of the State. If the opposition does not function properly and does not behave responsibly, I am sure people will not forgive them. They know where to keep these opposition people. So you allow a complete discussion without any partisan considerations to find out the truth. The scam has not started today. It has started four or five years back. You allowed for the last three or four years these things to take place. I have not every information that got only the ruling party persons; but the opposition people are also involved in this scam, who have got some lenience or friendship with the brokers. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speakers, Sir, what happened to my notice under Rule 388?.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHUANA (South Delhi): Mr. speaker, Sir, normally the Question Hour should not be suspended but it is a very important matter so we had to give a notice under Rule 388. People know the integrity of Shri Madhavan well. So, I do not want to repeat his past record. The entire country is worried about it. So if you receive a notice of a Minister of Prime Minister to give a *Suo Motu* Statement in this regard, it will sooth the sentiments and anguish of the Members.

Secondly I would like to state that the forcible resignation of Shri Madhavan due to political pressure shows that the Government wants to give a wrong signal to the investigating officers that if they do not abide by the instructions of the Government, they would also meet the same fate as Madhavan is meeting. So I think if Madhavan does not continue in his post alongwith the investigating powers after this incident, it will definitely demoralise the present investigatioly officers because the Government wants to threaten them in this way. So it is necessary that the Prime Minister at first should come with a statement and only after that the discussion will be a useful one.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, now the Question Hour is going to be over....(Interruptions) You did not accept the resolution to suspend the Question Hour. But ultimately it met the same fate though in a somewhat different manner. I would like to know whether this procedure is correct; whether the House will go like this; Bank scam is included in today's agenda for discussion.

12.00 hrs

This discussion could be taken just after the Question Hour...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that I have emphasised on it earlier also that the Question Hour should take place....(Interruptions) Please you don't support it, because your support weakness my case....(Interruptions)

I know what the Leader of the Opposition said I do not want to violate any privilege of the House. But there is a competition in this House as well as in the country for expressing one's views first. Is it necessary to suspend the Question Hour for it?

My colleague Shri George Fernandes also wants to raise an issue and feels intensively about the issue. We also feel that. But, Mr. Speaker, Sir, time has come to consider seriously as to how the intensity should be expressed in this House because if there is a competition for speaking first, there will be a demand for suspending the Question Hour. Then we will also demand that. Could the discussion held from 11. a.m. onwards till now, not take place after 12 O'clock?

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Tell Shri Advani about that.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Do not try to silence me. On several occasions we did not demand the suspension of the

Question Hour but on the next day we found that an impression was sought to be given as if a particular party and a particular Member of that party was more concerned about the banking scam and not we. We are also concerned about that but along with that we are also concerned about the dignity of the House. After all why the Question Hour should not be there?....(Interruptions) Again you are clapping and disturbing me...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Vajpayee ji, let them clap on this matter, You are stating a very good point.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE; I am stating a good thing. But Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the members of treasury, benches are in Opposition in the Legislative Assemblies, they respect the same thing. This politics of rivalong is not limited to here only. Once I had submitted as to how the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of the country should function. Today, there is a need of unanimous opinion on this issue. There is a need of introducing code of conduct. Today, congress is in power in the Centre and in Opposition in several states. We are in opposition in the Centre and in power in several states. This thing applies to all parties. But there should not be different code of conduct in this House and different code of conduct for West Bengal assembly.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): In Rajasthan?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Anywhere. I agree with you. In hurts me when members rise in the House at 11. a.m. and demand discussion on a certain issue. There is no need of great intelligence or bravery for it.

SHRI SOMANATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): There is a need of demanding discussion at 11. a.m. when there are issues like Madhavan issue.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: After all Madhavan is a C.B.I. officer. It is a serious

matter that reports about a C.B.I. Officer are published in the newspapers. It should be an issue for discussion. But it is not proper that a uproar is created in the House because of C.B. Officer and members ask to suspend Question Hour and unscheduled discussion goes on Madhavan(Interruptions)

I would also like to ask a question on the report published about Madhavan. But what would be the procedure for asking a question... (Interruptions)

This issue is to be discussed at 12 O' clock. What is the justification. I would like that Shri Indiraji Gupta and Shri Chandrajeet Yadav should tell about the manner in which issues should be raised in this House. If all these things will be repeated in the House and the issues are to be raised at 11. a.m., we shall also do the same thing....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER; Vajpayee ji is speaking. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am requesting you not to take decision now in this regard. Decide it tomorrow or whenever you like but it should be stopped.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Resume your seat please. I fully agree with the feeling of Shri Vajpayee. If I am feeling guilty to anybody in the house, it is with the feelings of Shri Vajpayeeji. Because I had said that he should be given time to speak on this issue at 12 O' clock. I would also clarify that Shri Advani told me that he has not in favour of suspending Question Hour. He also said that it was also not good that all when Parties/Members expressed their feelings they remain quiet. It is necessary to tell you as to what he said. Though he is not in its favour but it is not good that all the Members speak and inspite of being the biggest Opposition

part and Leader of Opposition they did not speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN(Rosera):
The Members of our party have given notice under Rule 388...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER; You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Bolpur): Have we raised any frivolous matter?...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

India Trade Promotion Organisation

347. SHRI KESRI LAL: will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Government to Trade Fair Authority of India (now known as India Trade Promotion Organisation) during the year 1991-92;

(b) the financial assistance provided or proposed to be provided to India Trade Promotion Organisation during the current year;

(c) whether the Government propose to curtail the assistance;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the India Trade Promotion Organisation has increased the rate being charged for rendering its services; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?