

12.36 hrs:

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

(I) Ban on Political Rallies at Boat Club

[Translation]

SHRILAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, my reverred colleague Shri Indrajit Gupta has rightly said that it will be better for the House to know in advance that in what form the notice of the Adjournment Motion will be taken up in the House. Therefore, I would like to read out the notice of the adjournment Motion. The notice of the Adjournment Motion given by me is as follows..... (Interruptions) I am not raising it as an Adjournment Motion. Since it has not been circulated and as Shri Indrajit Gupta has suggested that till the House knows in advance as to which matter is being taken up and in what form, the discussion will not be fruitful. Therefore, I am reading it out.

[English]

"I hereby give notice of my intention to ask for leave to move a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing of definite matter of urgent importance, namely violation of article 19 of the Constitution Which guarantees to all citizens the right to freedom of speech and the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, by the recent ban imposed by the Government of India on political rallies at the Boat Club, New Delhi, a decision which has evoked a general disapproval from all section".

[Translation]

This is the text of the notice of the Adjournment Motion given by me.

Today in the morning, during discussion in your Chamber I have stressed that there is a difference between discussing any issue and taking up of an Adjournment Motion. Your ruling in your capacity as the Hon. Speaker is final and we accept it. We are also prepared to raise the matter not in the form of an Adjournment Motion, but in the form of a short duration discussion under Rule 193. However, I understand that no other issue could be more appropriate to raise as an Adjournment Motion than this one. Probably the Government may also be in the dark about the developments taking place in the country since the announcement of ban or denial of permission to hold the rally.

There are many things which become known easily even in the absence of a proper feed back and in a democracy the responsibility for it rests with the Cabinet and the Government, who are answerable. Some of my hon. colleagues said that our people have also been arrested, probably earlier they were under the impression that ban has been imposed on the B.J.P. only. But later the clarification has come from the Government that for the next four-five months no rally would be allowed at the Boat club lawns. After that there were different reactions, and so far as I know, I have gone through a number of statements. Almost all the opposition parties, including the ones, which are severe critics of my party's stand, have disapproved the decision of the Government. Since almost everybody has disapproved the Government's decision, I have included this point of view in the Adjournment Motion. It states:

[English]

A decision which has evoked general disapproval from all sections.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not attend the House in the month of December. At that time the Delhi branch of the BJP had announced a rally to be organised here in the Talkatora Stadium. That is a closed stadium. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was to address that rally, an announcement to this effect was also made. That rally was banned. Either the local police officers might have imposed ban or the administration might have done so because when Shri Vajpayee sat on fast in protest, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs assured him that the Government did not have any such intention and that it had banned only a few organisations. The House will have an opportunity again to discuss the ban on those organisations. Therefore, I would not discuss it. Later on, Shri Vajpayee broke his fast only when the hon. Minister of Home Affairs gave an assurance publicly as also in the House that so far as the activities of BJP were concerned, they were not banned and that BJP was free to carry out their political activities throughout the country. This was the assurance the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has given to this House as well as to the entire country. Keeping that background in view, this decision should be taken into consideration. Thereafter, the BJP announced to hold a rally at the Boat Club on the 25th February, after the commencement of Parliament session. The date of commencement of session was not decided by that time. It was to commence tentatively in the third week of February. We will take out a rally on the 25th at the Boat Club and raise some of our demands there which we have been raising for the last two months. For quite sometime there was no reaction to it. Discussions continued and nearly 10-15 days after that the Government announced that the rally would not be allowed to be held. The Government did not use the word "ban" but stated that permission to that effect would

not be given. The BJP took the impression that the Government was not willing to take the matter at political and ideological level. In a way it has accepted its defeat at the political and ideological level and find itself incapable to meet the challenge. Therefore, they had to take recourse to law to face the rally, and while doing so they banned the rally. It declared that there was ban on rally. We have observed the outcome of the ban during the last four days. What does the ban mean? Once you direct our police administration that we have imposed ban on this rally and ensure that people are not able to participate in the rally, then see to what extent the police can go which is very much evident from the incidents that took place in 1975-76-77 or what we saw during the last 4-5 days. Never before 1975-76-77 it was observed that if the family planning is a part of the Government policy, then police and the administration should commit any number of excesses to implement family Planning Programme, arrest any number of people, impose ban on any one and sterilise any number of people forcibly. All that excesses were perpetrated during 1975-76-77. At these times, there was a cover—a legal cover, when all of our Fundamental Rights were suspended because of the enforcement of Emergency. But today without such cover the same things are taking place, including many with the approval of the Government. I don't think the Delhi Police has decided on its own to put up a fence of concertina barbed wire which is put up on borders such as Bangladesh, or Punjab or Kashmir or Rajasthan or Gujrat to check the infiltration by our foreign enemy into our country, which is put up in sensitive international borders but today it has been put up at the boat Club just to (interruptions) and then pictures were beamed on television to show how sharp the blades of these wires are that these blades can not only tear off the cloth piece thrown on it but also the bodies of human beings who try to pass through it.

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The hon. Minister or Home Affairs is present here, I would like to ask him what message does the Government want to convey by it? Is it that the Government finds no other alternative to maintain law and order?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is not confined to this only. When the Police Commission headed by Dharmvir was constituted, it had given a serious thought as to what extent the police set-up could go, once the Cabinet took a decision, and there is a complete chapter devoted to it and that is chapter 15. The Dharmvir Commission report is in my hand.

[English]

Second Report of the National Police Commission.

[Translation]

In his report he has stated that there was a time when Britishers ruled this country and the foremost duty of the administration and the police force at that time was to protect British rule at all cost. Our country attained independence in 1947, and it was but natural that some change did come up in the administration and some change in police set-up but it lasted for few years only. He has given a long explanation as to why did the administration change after sometime and that what was the outcome of that change, he replied that since opposition parties adopted agitational approach such as strike and trade unions observed bandhs and staged gharaos.

[English]

Consequent on the agitational posture taken up by some political

parties in opposition, protest demonstrations, public meetings, processions, politically motivated strikes in the industrial sector, dharnas, gharaos, etc. have become a recurrent feature of political activity in the country ... "

[Translation]

This is what prevailed at that time. The result was that.

[English]

".....Police have been increasingly drawn into the resultant law and order situations and are expected by the ruling party to deal with all such situations with a political eye. Putting down political dissent has become a tacitly accepted objective of the police system....."

[Translation]

Not only this, Shri Dharmvir's report further states:-

[English]

".....The relationship that existed between the police and the foreign power before Independence was allowed to continue with the only change that the foreign power was substituted by the political party in power.

[Translations]

What a serious allegation is this, that the ruling party adopted the same posture as the British regime had adopted before 1947 to deter the political adversaries, the police also rendered them the service as it did to

British rulers.

[English]

".....More and more time of the police was taken up with law and order work which really meant dealing with street situations in a manner that would cause maximum satisfaction to the ruling party. In the process, individual crimes affecting the interests of individual citizens by way of loss of their property or threat to their physical security got progressively neglected. Police got progressively nearer to the political party in power and correspondingly farther from the uncommitted general public of the country...."

[Translation]

He has explained it in detail and that too in an impressive manner. We had the most bitter experience in the recent past when the P.A., an assistant of our colleague, was arrested from his house, Shri Ramdew Ram is one of our Members of Parliament. The arm of his son was broken. I do not want to mention all those instances here because a number of hon. Members have already moved privilege Motion on that basis but I know this much that No law of the country gives the power to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs or to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs to enter somebody's house and ask whether some Alok Kumar, Advocate who pleads the cases of BJP in the court lives there. Police entered the House of one Alok Kumar and asked this question. At this Alok Kumar replied in the affirmative. He was then told that he was under arrest and he was arrested.....(interruptions) I am happy as Shri Khuranji informed me that the Court released him yesterday. I can cite several such examples here. The passengers are made to get down forcibly from the trains in the midst of their journey and railway

stations are gheraoed to make arrests. Governments has cordoned off the entire New Delhi area with police and security forces. Nobody is allowed to come in or go out from that area without permission as is in parliament House. Even marriage parties are stopped on the way and enquires are made to ensure that there is no BJP rallist with the Barat.....(interruptions)....When one of my colleagues, asked an hon. Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs as to how can the Government stop the people from coming to Delhi. He further said that he could understand if the people were stopped in Delhi. If somebody violates law or the section 144, in Delhi the police have full authority to arrest him. But how can a person coming from punjab be prevented from coming to Delhi by the Haryana Chief Minister? Chief Minister of Harayana says, "We will definitely stop. We had stopped the People from reaching Delhi in 1982 at the time of Asian Games when some people had declared that they would reached Delhi at any cost. Each and every bus and train was stopped and checked and those people were stopped on route to Delhi. The consequence of the action is ponderable. I agree that there was a great resentment among the people in the country and all over the World following the Operation Blue star in 1984. Seeds of which were sown in 1982. It was the result of the incidents which took place in 1982. in Haryana. He threatened to repeat all that which happened in 1982. He challenged that he would see to it that no one reaches Delhi from Punjab and Haryana. Where would these threats lead us?"

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the Bharatiya Janata Party is concerned, it has given instructions to all its supporters in writing, to hold peaceful rally. A copy of the same was submitted by my colleague Shri Khurana and Shri Pramod Mahajan to Shri Chavan when they went to meet him. We told them that our fight was not against the police or the security forces, our fight was against the

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[English]

Governmentt.....(Interruptions)

You are perfectly free to do it.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): It has no credibility (Interruptions)

[Translation]

But it is not fair to stop persons coming to Delhi from Trivandram, Palghat, Bangalore, Bombay and different parts of Maharashtra simply because they belonged to B.J.P.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: You can say that it has no credibility. On this basis the Government has full authority to take action against a person who violate any laws anywhere. But there is no law to arrest a man simply on the ground that if he is going to Delhi he would perhaps take part in the rally. The only reason for the interception of all the persons on all places was that they were going to Delhi and thus, they were violating the law. It is a different thing that nobody can get justice easily from the courts in India. One cannot get justice easily. So the Government takes full advantage of it and often Police also take advantage of it at the instance of Government. There are examples given in a chapter of the report National Police of Commission, to which I referred:

Attention was drawn to these very facts in the police commission. In the mean time what happened in Palghat, one of our workers was killed in the lathicharge there.

[English]

He died the day before yesterday.
(interruptions)

[Translation]

We assure the Government that Bharatiya Janata Party will not indulge into any act of violence on the 25th February. If at all any incident of violence takes place it would definitely be committed by Government. (Interruptions) Sometimes, I fail to make out as to how even a man with ordinary political understanding can commit a mistake of imposing such a ban. The rally was scheduled to be held on the 25th February. (Interruptions). It is right that such an allegation is levelled. Sometimes it appears that the steps taken by the Government are for the benefit of the Bharatiya Janata party. Many Members of Congress party and the oppositions also level allegations against the Prime Minister that he is in hand in hand with the Bharatiya Janata Party. (Interruptions) On the 25th February a massive rally was to be held here. It was merely a one-day-affair, at the most it may be a two-or three day affair. Moreover is involved only one place i.e. New Delhi. By banning the rally, the Government has provided grounds to hold thousands of rallies all over the country and

[English]

"Some typical situations or matters in which pressure is brought to bear on the police by political executive or other extraneous sources are listed below:"

"People are taken into preventive custody to immobilise them from legitimate political activity in the Opposition to the party in power".

[Translation]

So it is a legitimate political activity. A person can come to Delhi, and attend a rally at the Boat Club. But if he is arrested on his way to Delhi on the pretext of violating section 144, Government is free to do that

thousands of rallies will be held in jails. It forgot its better experience of adopting repressive measures in the past and has again taken repressive measure at thousands of places. No party can be checked from carrying out its programmes and its activities and so ideology can be suppressed by resorting to repressive measures.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav tried to do the same thing in the year 1990. Its aftermaths are before the Government. The Government can try the same thing in Delhi, its repercussion will come before the Government and nobody can avoid it. (Interruptions) The congress Government could not save itself in 1975 by invoking Article 352 and imposing emergency in the country thereunder. I want to tell the Government that even its undeclared emergency cannot save it. The countdown has now begun and it too is contributing towards it. Governments acts like dismissal of 4 B.J.P. Governments, imposition of ban on the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and arresting the persons thereafter and banning the rally cannot be considered by the people who have been in politics for years as a mature step from political point of view. (Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Madnapore):
But it will benefit you. You should welcome it.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I would have welcomed, had I found that it would equally benefit the country. It is doing good to my party, but it is doing no good to the country and the administration. (Interruptions)

It has also mentioned thereon as to what does the police do to fulfill the objective of political parties.

[English]

They file fake criminal cases against political functionaries for achieving political ends.

[Translation]

Next, when I was arrested I had not imagined that such an allegation will be leveled against me. Had the Government arrested me under the N.S.A., I would have thought that it was because of the difference between Security concept of mine and the Government and so I was arrested.

13.00 hrs

But they arrest the people on patently false charges and the Policemen, who arrest them, beg apology and say that they know that the charges are false but what they can do; they have to obey the orders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is sitting here. I would like to submit that it is not too late to reconsider the decision taken by the Government.....(Interruptions) Today is 23rd. The Government should make a declaration in the House that the rally may be held in Delhi. As far as the Bhartiya Janata Party is concerned it has directed its party activists and supporters not to resort to violence in retaliation even if when the police lathi-charge them or use tear gas against them. (Interruptions)

I know one of its reasons is the feeling which is permeating the security forces and policemen and on the whole what ideology should they follow ..(Interruptions)

Express sympathy for their difficulties. I am realizing their difficulties. Today, there is a sudden change in the country and this change is of such a type as people had never imagined earlier. As soon as they are realizing it, their frustration and difficulties are gradually coming up they are behaving in such a manner. In my opinion, banning the proposed rally of the Bharatiya Janata Party on 25th February is also an expression of that difficulty, frustration and desperation. The

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Government should know that a number of different ideologies can simultaneously exist in the democratic set up. The ideology of the Communist Party between 1951 to 1954 is different to that of today. There is a vast difference between the Communist party of those days and that of today. At that time, some of the people had demanded that the Communist party should be banned in view of the then prevailing ideology and the speeches delivered by its leaders. They have no faith in democracy they want to use the democratic institutions to uproot the democratic set up. At that time Jansangh was there and despite such statements of the Communist Party leaders, Jansangh had never supported the demand for banning the party. We always used to oppose this demand and used to say that the strength of the democracy lies in the variation of ideology... (Interruptions) This is the specialty of the democracy that diverse ideologies can co-exist in it and no effort should be made to curb any ideology by imposing ban or taking legal measures. If any party has faith in terrorism and acts on the same basis then it is not an ideology;

[English]

It is a different category of omission.

[Translation]

That is not an ideology, but what is the ideology of Communalism, what is secularism, and what is nationalism? Nationalism has already been defined by the framers of our Constitutions. When the struggle for freedom was going on, all our leaders from Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak to Gandhiji had defined nationalism. Now it is to be considered whether the ideas of nationalism defined by our great leaders were true or the present ideas over-riding all the previous ideas, are true; and the result of

all this came forward before us in 1992 when some members of this very House opposed Vandemataram. Instead of discussing these things, the demand is being raised to ban the Bharatiya Janata Party after banning the Rashriya Swayam-Sevak Sangh. But Bharatiya Janata Party will also.....

[English]

.....(Interruptions)....I am not yielding. (Interruptions) SHRI ANBARASU ERA (Madras Central): You want to walk over the dead bodies to come back to power. It is shame. You want to come back to power and you want to see an Ayodhya again in Delhi. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmadabad): Have you left any other argument with you?

SHRI LAL. K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like that discussion should be held as soon as possible in the House on the outbreak of riots in Bombay, Gujarat and other parts of the country. I am proud of that there has been communal peace and harmony in the B.J.P. ruled states. Riots have erupted in Bombay and in chairman Bhai's Gujarat. (Interruptions)

The Minister of Home Affairs is sitting here in the House. He, himself visited Bombay. The hon. Prime Minister had also visited Bombay. The Home Minister, the hon. Prime Minister and the former Chief Minister of the State, who has been removed yesterday, said publically that Bombay riots had no connection with the incidents of Ayodhya. In views of all these facts, I would certainly participate in the discussion if it is held in the House today. But once again I would like to request the Government to review its wrong decision and to withdraw the ban. As per established convention, you should give permission to the lakhs of people

likely to come to Delhi the day after tomorrow. There should be no objection to anybody if these people gather at the Boat Club without any violence and arms.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have heard Mr. Advani now speaking against the Government's decision to ban the B.J.P. rally. But, Sir, the ban is not only against the BJP rally but also to operate against all rallies in Delhi for the next four months.

Sir, I am sorry to say that some people have no sense of shame in them....(Interruptions)... We do not consider imposition of a ban on political rallies is a correct step. We feel that when frenzy is being created in the country under the garb of political activities and when religion is being given primacy and when religion and politics are being mixed for political gains, then it is necessary that we should fight it politically. Therefore, what was needed and what is indeed is political mobilisation of the people of this country who are, by the large secular and who will remain secular in spite of the heinous attempts that are being made by some political parties and their cohorts to divide the country on the basis of religion. I have no doubt about this. Therefore, we must take it as a political challenge against the deliberate attempt to introduce cancer in our body politic. Therefore, on principle, we are not in favour of imposition of a ban like this. Now, today Mr. Advani says - I do not know - "We are very happy that we are getting political advantage" Then why are you opposing the ban? For whose consumption?

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) For the nation. [Interruptions]

[Translation]

SHRILAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, time and again I made the statements that if the Government will take any wrong step, the opposition will naturally get the benefit out of it. It does not mean that we are in favour of the Government's wrong steps. Time and again I observe that if murder of any leader of the ruling party is beneficial to it, then the leader is murdered. It is not the question that the ruling party would like such type of benefit. But when such ban is imposed then it gives political advantage to the other party. It is not good for the country, the administration and the police. Moreover it is not good for your party too (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Advaniji is all right and he speaks only for the sake of advantage. Atalji and Advaniji were present here on 27th November when I was speaking here. On that day I pointed out that they would not be able to control the mob and the mosque would be demolished. But both of you kept mum. Advaniji, on that day, it was your advantage to keep mum; so you speak only for your benefit....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, the reason why I referred to Mr. Advani's statement of his party gaining political advantage out of this, is this. It is very clear that with the stand that they have taken, the BJP want to create disturbances in the country and want to divide the people of this country and according to them, that will ensure to their advantage....(Interruptions) ...But, Sir, we are opposed to this because what is advantageous to BJP is against the interest of the country as a whole today. Therefore, BJP's advantage is to the country's disadvantage and all the right-thinking secular people in this country will have to fight unitedly

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against this cancer in our body politic...*(Interruptions)* ...Today this is the solemn duty and obligation of every right-thinking citizen of this country. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmadabad):
Mamata Banerjeeji, tell
them...*(Interruptions)*

tell, what had you written on the roads
of Calcutta with your blood...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir,
Mr. Advani said that the count down has
started. Count-down for what?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: For this
Government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is it
count-down for this Government or count-
down of secularism in this country or count
down so far as national unity and integrity are
concerned? We are not enanioured of this
Government. But we want to maintain the
secular traditions of this country. We do not
want that in the name of politics, you should
play and exploit religion in this country. That
is why, this countdown, if at all, has to be for
the communal politics in this country and we
must all try to undo this communal evil. I
thought the BJP leadership should at least
have posed a question as to why such a
situation has arisen in the country today. why
is it that today action and steps have to be
taken to remind our people of the highest
traditions of secularism in this country and of
what the founding fathers of our Constitution
thought best to include in our Constitution?
Sir, we are not going to have a theocratic
state. We cannot have a theocratic state in
India. We are opposed to it. In the name of
'Hindutva', in the name of national ethos,

what the BJP and its cohorts are trying to do
is to introduce a theocratic State in the
country, which can never be for the benefit of
the people. What would happen to millions
and millions of people? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't disturb
him. No, this is not correct.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If he
brings in my father's name, he must listen. I
may tell that he also left the Hindu Mahasabha
and came over to this side. He realised that
the times had changed. Is this the way to
speak? Is this the standard of the BJP? I am
not ashamed of what my father did
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Please
keep quiet, this is the child of freedom.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr.
Speaker Sir, Mr. Advani has stated that if a
rally is held on the 25th, there will be no
violence. So, he makes yet another promise!
I ask Mr. Advani, his friends and his followers.
Did you not give such a solemn assurance so
far as the security of the Masjid at Ayodhya
was concerned?

[English]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (Khunti): That
was not a mosque. It was only a disputed
structure. You are repeated by saying it a
mosque.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Did
not the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh
given an undertaking in a solemn affidavit
before the highest court of the land to protect
the mosque? Now, we are hearing from the
same gentleman again! He says, "if there is
a conflict between contempt of court and

contempt of God, I shall commit contempt of court, but not contempt of God?". Is this a civilised country? Is this a civilised approach?

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune) Was it a civilised action when Kumari Mamtha Banerjee was assaulted in Calcutta.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you think this matter is important, then you should quietly hear the views of all persons.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIM PATHAK: When Advaniji was speaking, he continuously interrupted him for forty minutes and none of the vendors stopped him to do so.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It appears very clear now that the highest court of this land was deliberately misled. And, Sir, when the Supreme Court of India gave a specific order not to carry out any construction there or not to do anything except 'kirtan' and Sbhajan, people were deliberately gathered there. Mr. Advani went in mini Rath Yatra: BJP President went in another mini Rath Yatra, significantly choosing Varanasi and Mathura as the place for the commencement of their mini Rath Yatras, because they have been openly demanding for the demolition of mosques at Varanasi of Mathura. What was the message intended to be given?

We have been told of Constitutional position; we are told of democracy. It is almost like devils quoting the scriptures today. Where was the Constitution; where was democracy then on that day when in spite of the Supreme Court order they deliberately

gathered people with the object of violating the court's order? Where was the Constitutions and where was their politics then? We did not hear of that. Sir, they deliberately gathered people with the pre-conceived, pre-arranged object of demolishing the mosque-even if they call it a disputed structure-which has brought a lasting shame over the country as a whole. Today we are the people whom the international community do not trust. They say that we are not civilized people. Was there a Government on that day?

I have seen the video recording of Mr. Kalyan Singh's speech in Calcutta. He said that because of the divine inspiration that mosque could be demolished in five-six hours, otherwise, it would have taken month-and-a-half. This is the way they are creating frenzy. Mr. Kalyan Singh said, "Even where did the debris go, I could not know. It is all divine blessings". Is this the way this country is being run?

Today when I hear from Mr. Advani that people will come and there will be no violence can he be trusted at all? Sir, it is not that I am justifying the ban - I have said that earlier but today who is making a grievance and who is making an allegation! We have to protect the secular fabric of this country. We have to save the unity and integrity of people.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): What is the punishment for causing fracture in the hand of the son of an hon. Member of Parliament? Speak on it, if you want.

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL (Chandni Chowk): When the discussion is going on about rally, then you should speak about rally only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is quite relevant. Let him speak, please.

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, is this the indication of the days to come? Will parliament be held to ransom? It is our duty, it is the duty of the Parliament to see that a political party which is trying to wreck the Constitution of this country for the purpose of gaining power by hook or crook with its designs does not succeed. This Parliament must commit itself to that. That is the need of the hour.

They are openly saying that countdown has started. They say even the police has sympathies with them. What are the insinuations?

If the police have sympathy for you, that police is not torturing you Mr. Advani and your friends. There is some sort of show business going on between you and the police. You must be consistent with what you said.

MR. SPEAKER, Sir, this country is facing the gravest of problems; a grave situation is being faced by this country. I am sorry that this Government is also responsible for its inaction in allowing what had happened on the 6th December at Ayodhya. You were also responsible. We have already told you. Today, you have equated this communal party with other secular parties. This blanket ban which you have issued is wrong. People who are trying to mobilise the secular forces to strengthen the secular feelings of the people of this country and who are trying to fight communalism, you have bracketed them along with these people. You have not been able to distinguish between the forces of disunity and the forces of unity. You do not make any distinction between forces of cohesion and forces of destruction. It is your obligation to do that. Today, when some

political parties and the people are trying to unite the country, you are putting them on the same position as those who are openly trying to break the unity of the people of this country and rape the Constitution. They want to divide the people and divide the country.

We are now hearing about (Mahabharata) consisting of other countries also. We are being told that this anti-Hindu Constitution must go. Who are saying all these things?

Sir, people have to earn respect by their actions, by their sayings and by their deeds. By merely putting on a particular garb you cannot earn respect of the people. You may have particular colour of your dress. By doing so, you don't necessarily earn respect. You have to earn respect by your actions, by your deeds and by the example that you have set for yourselves in your life. Who will lay down objectives that are set before our country? Today, in the name of anti-Hindu Constitution, this Constitution is being wrecked. We are being told that, here, in this country, there is a pseudo-secularism. These are the things that are being said today. Politics has been thrown to the winds. Economic crisis is forgotten. People's miseries are not being talked of. Today, the only thing in this country is that, they must have a temple at a place where *Ram was supposedly born.* [Interruptions]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: The whole nation believes on that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: For that purpose, it does not matter, whatever you do and what harm you create and what anguish you bring in amongst the people and their minds. This is a very very critical situation in our country. Therefore, Sir although we are opposed to this blanket ban this we have made it clear - I appeal to the saner sections of this House and also to the people outside

that they must be aware of the greatest danger which has befallen on this country. We call upon this Government to at least stand up and show that they have got spine and that they can fight firmly against these forces of disintegration and the forces of communalism.

I demand of this Government that by merely putting a ban here and there, you cannot control this—they should do this politically as well as administratively. Otherwise, you shall fail the country as you had failed once on the 6th December. Every attempt should be made to combine the secular forces of this country so that you can fight the menace which is dividing this country.

As I said, Mr. Advani has refused to condemn the incident of 6th December at Ayodhya. He said, I refuse to condemn it. Mr. Atal Bihar Vajapayee also did not condemn it. Till today, we have not heard one word of condemnation as to what has taken place. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad): Under which Constitution Mr. Mamata Banerjee was assaulted, have you ever condemned the hon. Home Minister for it? (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: One of the hon. Minister has resigned from the post, but you did not say anything about it. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Chief Minister of Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu had let Kumari Mamata Banerjee be assaulted in his room. Have you condemned it? (Interruptions) Sir, Shri Jyoti Basu had assaulted the pressmen and their office was removed from the Writers' Building. Have you ever condemned it? (Interruptions)

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE (Ramtek): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. When an hon. Member is speaking, the leader of the Communist Party is speaking then I demand this much only that none should be allowed to interrupt without your permission or there should be such a provision that all the loud speakers, except that of the person allowed to speak, should be switched off.

MR. SPEAKER: Your question on the point of order is all right. The loud speaker will also be quiet in order but you don't use it frequently.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This Government must act firmly and it must fight relentlessly against the forces of disintegration in this country. Let this Government take the necessary administrative action.

You have issued a ban on some of the ranks, some of the communal organisations. But how is this ban being enforced we do not know. How is it being done? I do not know. The Home Minister will kindly explain to us how you are enforcing this ban. They are openly functioning; and they are very happy. Over the wreckage of that mosque, they are having a sense of glee. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: MR. SPEAKER, Sir, it has not yet been decided whether that structure was a temple or a mosque but the leaders are repeatedly calling it a mosque and are trying to create tension. Earlier also it was done and today's also they are repeating the same thing. My submission to you is that such things should not happen. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are dreaming to come to power over the dead body of secularism in this country. But, I am sure, the people of this country are true democrats; they will never allow, never, never allow this brand of communal party to come to power. (Interruptions) We shall fight them in every forum, in every place and we shall fight them politically. And I want that this Government must behave as a Government, strong Government and should not allow this political party to take advantage of any inaction on the part of this Government.

Therefore, today, when the country is facing a serious problem, I, once again, before resuming my seat, appeal to the people outside also that this is a very serious moment that the country is facing. Let us unite and unite to fight this cancer in our body politic.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: (Dum dum): What happened to lunch? It is already 1.30.P.M. when will we adjourn for lunch?

AN. HON. MEMBER: After this discussion.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We do not know. We have not been told.

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down. I will tell you. We will have lunch and the lunch hour also. You will have lunch in the lunch hour. We will be adjourning now. But then let oime make it clear to hon. Members that this may be continued up to 4.30.p.m. Then the second matter will be taken up. I hope that you will agree that as the second matter is also important it shall have sufficient time and it should go on up to 7 p.m. today. Then tomorrow the Railway Budget and other

things are there. So, it may be difficult. Let us discuss today itself and help each other. We now adjourn for lunch up to 2.30.p.m.

13.37. hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS - CONTD.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, departing from the formal Business of the House, I have to introduce to you and through you to the House. Shri Salman Khursheed, who has been promoted as Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

14.35.hrs.

DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 193 - CONTD.

(i) Ban on Political Rallies at Boat Club - (contd)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to intervene.

Sir, first of all, I would like to make a request to the Home Minister. When Mr.