

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Government Media, Radio and T.V. which function under Hon. Shri Panja. If proceedings of Lok Sabha are deliberately suppressed by the media then it would be a breach of privilege. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not regular. It is not correct.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If anybody suppresses the proceedings of the House, it is a case of breach of privilege. But, Sir, I am talking about something else. Yesterday, there was martyrdom day of Shri Longowal and it was celebrated in Longowal village and this function was attended by members of various parties including C.P.I. and C.P.M. Longowal village is in Sangroor District. Nowadays it has become the centre of extremist's activities. Above one lakh people had gathered there. It is an important day because an agreement was signed on this day between Shri Longowal and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. On the occasion of his Sixth Martyrdom Day Lakhs of people had assembled there putting their lives at risk. They celebrated that day for the prosperity of Punjab and news regarding this function should have been covered by the Radio and Television. But it was not done. It shows the partisan attitude of the Government media particularly the 'Doordarshan'. Not only this, the day before yesterday, Mr. Chavan made a statement regarding attack on me and gave an assurance to provide full protection. But your T.V. and Radio didn't mention a single line in your news. When it concerns any of your minister, the media gives full coverage to it. If it relates to Shri Madhavrao Scindia or Shri Chidambaram then Government media gives full five minutes to cover that news but when it is a matter regarding any member of opposition party, not even

a single line is mentioned. There is no reference to the statement given by the Minister in the House. Hon. Minister is present here. I would request him not to run the Radio and T.V. on party lines.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana): I want to raise a very important issue. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : May I just react? Since this Government came into power, the radio and TV are not being used for party purposes. (Interruptions) SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA may try to throttle me in Bengal but he cannot do it here in Parliament. Regarding Television and Radio coverage, there are set rules which lay down how much coverage is given for the ruling party and how much is given for the opposition parties based on news value. I have taken care of that although we do not interfere. I have taken care to see that the rules are observed so that at any time if any Member raises that, I can answer point-wise how much time is given in the National Network and how much is given in the Regional Network. Members may rest assured of this. Because of shortage of time, perhaps the name of one or two Members who participated in the Parliamentary debates could not be given coverage. But we are trying to see that coverage is given to the Members participating in the debate and other incidents that happen in the House as much as possible... (Interruptions) Just listen to me one minute.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Why is there this discrimination?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : I say there has been no discrimination whatsoever... (Interruptions) Any day

in this House, if it requires I will lay down what has happened since this Government came into power, what the two other earlier Governments did with this. I have to take care of the entire infrastructure. For that, I can assure one thing. There was less complaint at one time regarding Television and Radio. But now change is required so that whatever is news worthy that can be given coverage. We are trying to computerise to ensure that requirement. Of course, there might be some error as far as human judgement is concerned. So, we are trying computerisation of the entire scenario in 25 States and 7 Union Territories so that the people of all regions can get justice. Regarding the Members' complaint, I am sorry, all of them could not be covered. *(Interruptions)*

Let me answer. Then, you say.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): You have to tell us why the entire programme was totally blacked out when such a threat is there in Punjab. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are not used to my lecture. I know. But I do not give you lecture here. I make a submission for the hon. Members. I can say for certain that we are trying to do justice as far as possible. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Minister has not said anything why that was totally blacked out. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : Sir, yesterday the whole nation paid its tributes to one of the tallest leaders of recent times, Shri Rajiv Gandhi who laid down his life for the unity of the country. Yesterday, we paid tributes to the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi who laid down his life for the unity of this Country. But yesterday itself an unfortunate incident took place where near Bangalore the main mastermind Sivarasana and his woman accomplice Subha killed themselves. It is a very unfortunate

incident. Of course, the Special Investigation Team failed to nab Sivarasana alive. The Special Investigation Team made all possible efforts to get Sivarasana alive. But ultimately it failed to nab Sivarasana. I demand from the Home Minister that he should make a statement on that and at the same time I demand that the Government of India should ask...

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik, probably yesterday this matter had come up.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bhakta, do not talk like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: This evening at 5.30 P.M., I will be making a statement on both the issue, *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: I want to raise one very important issue. The term of the Verma Commission which is enquiring into the deficiencies of the security system, would be expiring...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not jump like this from one point to another.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: I want to make a very important point. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow you beyond this. Please do not talk like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you. If you go beyond a certain limit, I will not prefer you after this.

(Interruptions)