REGARDING NOTICES RECEIVED UNDER RULE 267

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, three notices have been received under Rule 267. The notice of Shri Saket Gokhale demands discussion over the alleged lapse of Election Commission in issuance of multiple duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Cards across the States. The notice of Shri P. Wilson demands discussion over the need for constitutional amendment to remove the ceiling of 50 per cent on reservations. Both the hon. Members are present. There is also notice from Shri Raghav Chadha. He is not present in the House. Now, hon. Members, I have indicated that on such serious matter, where a Member wants that the listed work of the House be suspended, he or she is not present; that has happened on number of occasions.

I am sure, if Shri Raghav Chadha seeks to raise an issue only to get attraction of the subject -- everyone present here are, otherwise, passionate about the subject by seeing me in my Chamber too -- I am skipping the subject with the leave of the House because he is not present here. Hon. Members, the notices emanating from Shri Saket Gokhale and Shri P. Wilson, though are important, as the issue can be raised otherwise, I am unable to persuade myself to accord any acceptance on procedure and otherwise. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, the Leader of the Opposition.

REGARDING ALLEGED CHARGES MADE IN LOK SABHA

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): Thank you, Sir. I am grateful to you that you have given me a chance to clarify certain remarks made in the other House in my name. Sir, I rise in deep anguish. My life has always been an open book. It has been full of struggles and battles. But I have always upheld the highest values in public life. After almost 60 years in politics, I did not deserve this. Yesterday, completely false and baseless charges were hurled at me in the Lok Sabha by Shri Anurag Thakur. ...*(Interruptions)*... When he was challenged by my colleagues, he was compelled to withdraw his defamatory remarks. But the damage had been done. All the media have carried it. Social media is also spreading it. His statements damaging my image and reputation had already been picked up by the social and other media. Devegowda*ji* should also listen to this. He is associated with me for nearly 50 years. Sir, as the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and as the President of the Indian National Congress, I am forced to stand up today and condemn Shri Anurag Thakur's wild allegations. I expect an apology from the Leader of the House, that it is the very least, the ruling party can and must do. If Shri Thakur cannot prove his allegation, he has no right to be in Parliament. He should resign, I