

### 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. Devegowdaji 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

seek ...(*Interruptions*)... And if it is proved, I will resign. Even if he proves one acre of waqf land is occupied by me or my children, -- it is my challenge -- if such allegations are made, leaving some papers on the Table and damaging us, I am not going to be afraid of these things. I am a son of a labourer. I am from the textile workers' union. I had also been a labour leader and then I became the Block Congress Committee President and, today, I am the AICC President. ...(*Interruptions*)... It has been a long way. ...(*Interruptions*)... Devegowdaji was with me. I was with him then.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Khargeji, you have made your point.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: No, Sir. It hurts me. ...(*Interruptions*)... मेरे जीवन में आज तक असेम्बली में भी किसी ने मेरी ओर उंगली उठाकर नहीं बोला। देवगौड़ा जी यहाँ हैं। जब एक बार किसी ने कुछ बोला, तो पूरे हाउस ने उठकर मेरे लिए apology की माँग की। चीफ मिनिस्टर मेरे पास आए और मेरे बाजू में बैठकर apology माँगी। मैं ऐसा आदमी हूँ। अगर ये बीजेपी के लोग डराकर मुझे झुकाना चाहते हैं, तो मैं कभी नहीं झुकूँगा। मैं टूट जाऊँगा, लेकिन झुकूँगा नहीं। यह याद रखो, मैं डराने से डरने वाला नहीं हूँ। अगर मैंने किसी की एक इंच भी जगह ली — मैं तो उस एरिया से आता हूँ, जिस एरिया में मुझे मुस्लिम के एक सेगमेंट में 1,20,000 वोट मिलते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point.

**श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे:** मेरे ऊपर इल्जाम लगाते हो? आप ज़रा ठाकुर को बुद्धि दीजिए, नहीं तो ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may confine to the point.

**श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे:** मैं अनुराग ठाकुर के बारे में बोल रहा हूँ, जाति को लेकर नहीं बोल रहा हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, Leader of the Opposition. You have made your point...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: No; no, this is very serious. Sir, I condemn it. ...(*Interruptions*)... I want your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, I want your protection. He should apologize...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: On behalf of him, the Leader of the House should apologize. This is my demand. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, one minute. When Leader of the Opposition, President of the Congress Party, has made observations, expressing his deep anguish ...*(Interruptions)*... I would allow you. Do you want to say something? Then, I would react from the Chair.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we heard the anguish and the words expressed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I have stated earlier also, as a colleague, we must have high regard for each other and Mallikarjun Khargeji...  
...*(Interruptions)*... What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... You want to speak! You speak.  
...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, one minute.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Let Derek O' Brien speak. You speak on my behalf.  
...*(Interruptions)*... You speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, let him speak.  
...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members. A little while ago, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: What right has he to make this kind of comment?

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### OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... A little while ago, I had the occasion to pay salutations to this august House because it was on this day, we came into being. The Leader of the Opposition was heard in rapt attention. Let the other point of view come. And, then, there is a Chair to take a call on this. Let me take the call, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Do you want to say something?