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BJP, Oppn spar over politicisation of crime against women

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 NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Lok Sabha on Friday witnessed uproar with the MPs from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Opposition parties sparred over incidents of rape, accusing each other of politicising crime against women.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Pralhad Joshi, submitted a notice on behalf of the BJP to the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking suspension of two Congress MPs - TN Prathapan and Dean Kuriakose - for allegedly misbehaving in the House and taking a "threatening position", when Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani was speaking.

Adhir R Chowdhury, leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, took a jibe at the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh while speaking about the attempt made by a gang of people accused of raping a woman to set ablaze the victim on her way to the court on Thursday.

Irani later countered him, exploring politicisation of crime against women. The MPs of the Congress and the BJP had a war of words when Irani accused the Opposition parties of overlooking the use of rape as a political weapon in West Bengal, currently ruled by the Trinamool Congress.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned twice due to the ruckus, as the BJP kept on insisting on an apology for Congress MPs for misbehaving with Irani. The House was finally adjourned for the day at 2.30 pm.



Woman and Child Welfare Minister Smriti Irani speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Friday. LSTV/PTI

Chowdhury recalled the demolition of Babri Mosque at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh on December 6, 1992, while speaking on the attack on the rape victim at Unnao in the northern State. "On one hand, the temple of Maryada Purushottam Ram Ji (Lord Ram) is being built on the site (where now-demolished Babri Masjid once stood). On the other hand, Sita Maiya (Mother Sita) is being burnt," he said, triggering protests from the ruling BJP MPs.

Sougata Roy of the TMC, Danish Ali of the BSP and Arvind Sawant of the Shiv Sena also spoke on the issue.

"You were quiet when rape was used as a political weapon during the West Bengal Panchayat elections," said Irani, targeting the MPs of the Congress, Trinamool Congress and other Opposition parties. "The very fact that you shout here today means that you do not want a woman to stand up and talk about issues that she feels passionate about," she said.

'Law should be strengthened'

At a time when the country is abuzz with news of the four accused in the Hyderabad rape and murder case being shot dead by police in an encounter, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that is not the law to take law into one's own hand, reports DHNS. "The law is that police will do its duty and produce (the accused) in court and then the court will do its work," said Mamata. She was speaking at a party meeting in Central Kolkata on Friday.

Sakshi Maharaj faces flak for b'day wishes to rape accused

LUCKNOW, DHNS: On a day when the entire country was shocked by the burning of a rape survivor in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district, BJP Lok Sabha member and saffron leader Sakshi Maharaj extended his "best wishes" to the expelled rape accused party MLA Kuldeep Singh Senger through Twitter.

Senger, who was accused

of raping a minor and also trying to get her killed in a road mishap, was currently lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail. The controversial saffron leader in his birthday greeting to Senger on Thursday quoted a 'shloka' (verse) in Sanskrit and wished him to have a "long life" and also prayed for his "success". The netizens reacted sharply to BJP MP's birthday wish to Senger.

Hyd rape accused...

ENCOUNTER, FROM PAGE 1

He said one of the accused, Mohammed Arif, was the first to open fire, even as the 10-member police team that took them to the crime scene were attacked with stones and sticks.

The police returned fire after initial "restraint" and asking the accused to surrender, he said. The snatched weapons were in "unlocked" position, he added.

A police sub-inspector and a constable suffered head injuries and were undergoing treatment, he said.

"Even though our officers maintained restraint and asked them to surrender, without listening to us, they continued to fire and attack... our people started retaliation. And in that retaliation four accused got killed," he added.

News of the 'encounter' killed led to celebrations in some quarters and concern in oth-

ers, while the families of the accused were shell-shocked.

The father and the sister of the woman veterinarian said they were very happy and thanked the Telangana government and police.

"We watched on TV that they were killed in an encounter. We are very happy. Even people are happy. I thank the Telangana government and police for the encounter. I thank everyone who stood by us," the father told the media.

The young woman's sister hoped the killings would be a deterrent for others.

"With this incident people should be scared to commit such crimes (against women)," she said.

Men and women distributed sweets to police personnel even as some celebrated the killing by bursting fire crackers near the encounter site and in other parts of Hyderabad.