

Ruckus in Parliament over Mumbai ex-top cop's letter

BJP seeks Prez rule, NCP-Sena launch counter-attack

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Maharashtra top cop Param Bir Singh's allegations against state Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Monday rocked proceedings in Parliament with BJP demanding imposition of President's rule in the state.

NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena launched a sharp counter-attack, ruling out the ouster of Deshmukh and accusing Singh, the former Mumbai Police Commissioner, of supporting criminals involved in operating dance bars and harassing policemen probing

the case.

Addressing a press conference here, Pawar flashed a medical certificate from a Nagpur-based hospital stating that Deshmukh was admitted there for treatment of Covid-19 from February 5 to February 15 and later placed under home quarantine till February 27.

"The claims by the former commissioner of police of API Sachin Vaze meeting Deshmukh at his official residence fell flat after production of the hospital records," Pawar said. However, within minutes, BJP functionary Amit Malviya posted a video of Deshmukh addressing a press conference

on February 15, seeking to puncture Pawar's claims.

Deshmukh hurriedly issued a clarification saying he had interacted with the media after being discharged from the hospital and en route home for staying in self-isolation.

In the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur demanded action against Deshmukh before responding to questions related to his ministry. During Zero Hour, BJP members Manoj Kotak, Girish Bapat, Rakesh Singh and independent member Navneet Rana demanded a CBI probe into the allegations levelled by the former police commissioner. Rajya Sabha also witnessed disruptions on the issue.

"I would like to request the Central government to impose President's Rule in Maharashtra immediately. Maharashtra has become a lawless state. Police are asking for money be-

cause the ministers and chief minister himself are supporting them," Bapat, a Lok Sabha member from Pune, said.

Shiv Sena floor leader Vinayak Raut rejected the allegations levelled by the BJP and accused the Centre of destabilising the state government led by the Maha Vikas Aghadi.

Both NCP and Shiv Sena accused the BJP of trying to divert the attention from the investigation in the cases of recovery of explosives outside Mukesh Ambani's residence and the "assassination" of Mansukh Hiran.

"The main case here was not the allegations made by the former Commissioner of Police," Pawar said adding that the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorist Squad was investigating the cases in the right direction.

"I got to know that ATS has arrested two people in connection with this case and is investigating," Pawar said.

BJP, NCP spar over minister's quarantine claims

MUMBAI, DHNS: A fresh war of words erupted between the BJP and NCP over the February 15 date on which Home Minister Anil Deshmukh was discharged from a hospital after being treated for Covid-19.

It started after NCP supremo Sharad Pawar's press conference in New Delhi.

Even while Pawar was interacting with the media, Leader of Opposition Devenendra Fadnavis, tweeted a video of Deshmukh's media interaction and said: "Sharad Pawar ji said, from 15-27 February, Anil Deshmukh was in home quarantine. But actually along with security guards and the media he was seen taking a press conference!"

Then Deshmukh issued a video statement immediately. "I was treated for Covid-19 in

Submit report to President, BJP tells Guv Koshyari

The BJP wants Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari to submit a report on the current happenings and situation in the state to President Ram Nath Kovind, reports DHNS.

A BJP delegation would call on the Governor on Wednesday to discuss the prevailing situation in Maharashtra.

the hospital from 5-15 February...I spoke to the waiting media while I was discharged from hospital. After that I was in home quarantine till 27 February," said Deshmukh.

Thereafter, Fadnavis tweet-

"We are not demanding the President's rule... the Governor, based on truth, principles, and provisions made available in the Constitution, should send a report to the President (on the ongoing happenings)," senior BJP leader and former state Finance and Planning Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar said.

ed: "It seems Sharad Pawar ji is not briefed properly on Param Bir Singh letter. In this letter only, the SMS evidence shows that the meeting date was mentioned as end of February. Now who is diverting the issue?"