

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪುಟಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ: DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT:

Parliament

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER:

Times of India

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 30/11/2019

# After Godse remark, Pragya apologises twice to Lok Sabha

## Oppn Rejected First Apology As Conditional, Counter-Allegation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The controversy over BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur's remarks on Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse is set to blow over with the sadhvi apologising twice in Lok Sabha — the second time after the opposition protested her bid to insert a clarification in her statement.

Standing up in the post-lunch session after a meeting of political leaders with Speaker Om Birla worked out the text of the apology Thakur said, "I want to say only what I do for the country. On November 27, during discussion on SPG (Amendment) Bill, I did not call Nathuram Godse a patriot, I did not even take his name. Still, if someone is hurt, I express my regret and apologise." The opposition had objected to her intervention in the speech made by DMK leader A Raja and accused her of praising Godse. Raja on Wednesday was speaking of "positive" and "negative" historical incidents — the assassinations of General Dyer by Udham Singh and of Gandhi by Godse. It was when he began to read a quote of Godse that Thakur interjected, dra-



wing the opposition's ire.

With the happenings in Lok Sabha drawing widespread condemnation, BJP on Thursday removed Thakur from the parliamentary standing committee on defence and also asked her to stay away from meetings of the parliamentary party for the rest of the winter session. A recalcitrant Thakur appeared to hold her ground, saying she had been misquoted, which resulted in more disturbance when the House gathered for her to express regret on Friday.

In her first apology, she targeted Congress's Rahul Gandhi without taking his name and claimed that that her comments were twisted.

"If my comments have

**If my comments have hurt in any way, I regret and seek apology. But my comments have been misrepresented and twisted, Pragya Singh Thakur said, adding that she respected and paid tribute to Gandhi for his contribution to the country**

hurt in any way, I regret and seek apology. But my comments in the House have been misrepresented and twisted," she said, adding that she respected and paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi for his contribution to the country.

Thakur, an accused in the Malegaon blast case, further said, "One member has publicly termed me a terrorist, though I have not been convicted by the court. It is even against the law to call me terrorist without conviction... It is an insult to a woman, a 'sadhvi' and an MP."

Another BJP member Nishikant Dubey then urged the Speaker to allow a privilege motion against Rahul for accusing a sitting MP of be-

ing a "terrorist". Outside Parliament, Rahul, however, brushed aside Thakur's comments and said he was ready to face any action. Unsatisfied with Thakur's apology, Congress MPs protested and shouted slogans demanding her suspension from the House. Congress members shouted slogans like "Godse party down down" and "Mahatma Gandhi ki jai."

As her conditional apology and counter-allegation triggered bedlam, the Speaker invited suggestions from members — Mulayam Singh Yadav of SP, Sudip Bandyopadhyay of TMC, Danish Ali of BSP, Asaduddin Owaisi of AIMIM and B Mahtab of BJD — and then held a meeting with floor leaders of political parties after breaking the House for lunch.

The text of the unconditional apology, which Thakur read out, was agreed upon at the meeting of different parties. When the House resumed, Thakur again touched off objections as she started her statement with having "borne the atrocities of enemies". The Speaker, however, asked her to limit it to her apology. Thakur then apologised.

9