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Bomb scare case stalls Parliament

Shiv Sena walks out of Lok Sabha as BJP members raise extortion allegation against Anil Deshmukh

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Treasury benches in both Houses of Parliament raised the Mumbai bomb scare case, flagging the letter written by former City Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh accusing Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh of running an extortion racket on Monday. The Rajya Sabha was adjourned for two hours due to the uproar, while the Shiv Sena staged a walkout in the Lok Sabha.

The protests began at noon in the Rajya Sabha just when the Question Hour had started.

BJP MPs stood up shouting slogans against the Maharashtra government.

"So far, it was only the terrorists who planted bombs,



Mumbai matters: NCP MP Supriya Sule speaking in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Monday. ■PTI

but in Maharashtra it is the police who are doing this," Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

The Question Hour went on for a few minutes amid this din.

In the Lok Sabha, the Shiv

Sena staged a walkout as the Maharashtra issue was raised by at least seven MPs of the Treasury benches (including one Independent MP Navneet Rana) during Zero Hour.

BJP MP Manoj Kotak was the first to raise the issue de-

manding that Maharashtra Home Minister resign. He was followed by another BJP MP Rakesh Singh stating that Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leaders who had been saying that this was a serious issue till the previous evening were "singing a different tune" this morning.

"What has happened in the interregnum?" he asked. "Is it because the Maharashtra Home Minister has threatened to implicate other leaders of his party too," he asked.

In response, Vinayak Raut of the Shiv Sena said the background of the former Mumbai Police Commissioner needed to be known as well as who had appointed him.

"These allegations are part of a design to destabilise

the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra," he said.

Ravneet Singh Bittu of the Congress added that the running interference of Central agencies in the matter was clear and that the Centre wanted to destabilise the MVA government in Maharashtra just as it had destabilised the Madhya Pradesh government. The Shiv Sena walked out of the House at that point and the House took to debating the Insurance Bill.

Speaking during the Bill, however, Supriya Sule of the NCP said it seemed to her that the Zero Hour had been rigged with multiple members of the Treasury benches being allowed to raise the issue without allowing her party to respond.