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BJP MPs raise Deshmukh issue again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The treasury benches in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday again raked up the allegations made by former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh against Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh of running an extortion racket.

The ruckus started when BJP member Sushil Modi sought to speak towards the end of the Zero Hour, demanding dismissal of Mr. Deshmukh. House Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu immediately shot down the demand, leading to protests from the treasury benches. Many BJP MPs stood up and started shouting slogans.

Later, speaking outside the House, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said, "It is the duty and responsibility of the treasury benches to run the House. It is most unfortunate that the Ministers themselves are leading the charge to disrupt the House. The Chair must name such Ministers and advice them to conduct themselves. This is unprecedented and in my parliamentary experience I have never seen the ministers behaving like this."

Mr. Modi said the events in Maharashtra were unprecedented and therefore, the reactions to it would also be "equally unprecedented".

Fadnavis demands CBI probe into police transfers

MUMBAI
BJP leader and former
Maharashtra Chief Minister
Devendra Fadnavis alleged
irregularities in the transfer of
police officers, citing a
confidential report from the
former Commiss ioner of
State Intelligence
department Rashmi Shukla
who had put several phone
numbers under surveillance.
He demanded a CBI inquiry
into it.