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Pragya dropped from House panel for remarks on Godse

Oppn Submits Censure Motion To LS Speaker

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The BJP leadership punished MP Pragya Thakur by removing her from the parliamentary panel on defence and told her not to attend meetings of the parliamentary party during the rest of the winter session even as her remarks on Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse led to protests in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Opposition benches demanded an apology from her and a censure motion, signed by 50 MPs, was submitted to Speaker Om Birla. The opposition took up the expunged remarks of the Bhopal MP, who faces charges



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— Pragya's tweet

Far from Nathuram Godse being called a patriot, we condemn the idea of treating him as a patriot. His (Gandhi's) philosophy was, is and will remain relevant and he is as a guide (margdarshak) for the nation
— Rajnath Singh



Terrorist Pragya calls Godse, a patriot. A sad day, in the history of India's Parliament
— Rahul Gandhi



Stop being a hypocrite Rahul Gandhi. You are making someone (Uddhav Thackeray) with identical views CM of Maharashtra
— GVL Narasimha Rao

in Malegaon blasts case, with several members, including Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, DMK's Dayanidhi Maran and RSP's N K Premachandran, seeking to censure Thakur in the House. Thakur's clarifications

outside the House that she had interjected during a reference to freedom fighter Udham Singh did not curtail with the opposition. She tweeted, "Kabhi kabhi jhooth ka bawandar itna gehra hota hai ki din me bhi

raat lagne lagti hai. Kintu surya apna prakash nahin khota. Pal bhar ke bawandar me log bhramit na hon. Surya ka prakash sthayi hai. Satya yahi hai ki kal maine Udham Singhji ka apman nahin saha bas. (Sometimes the storm of lies is so dark and powerful that it appears as if night has descended even though it's still day time. But the sun doesn't lose its lustre. People should not get confused. The glare of sun is persistent. The truth is that yesterday I could not tolerate the insult to Udham Singh.)"

In the Lok Sabha, there were protests with Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy and AIMIM's Asauddin Owaisi joining the demands raised by the Congress and other parties that the controversial MP tender an apology to the House.

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Rajnath says Bapu's philosophy was, is & will stay relevant

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Thousands of members of Congress have laid down their lives while serving the nation. How can she dare to say such things, that too inside the House. We demand action," Chowdhury said. Owaisi, who moved a privilege motion, asked the Speaker if he would not take steps to "save the dignity of Mahatma Gandhi".

Amid opposition protests, defence minister Rajnath Singh said BJP condemned any philosophy that described Mahatma Gandhi's killer as a patriot. The point, and a reprimand, was amplified by BJP working president J P Nadda as well who said, "The statement given by MP Pragya Thakur is condemnable. BJP never supports such statements and we do not support this ideology."

While BJP acted against Thakur, its spokespersons attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's tweet criticising the Bhopal MP, saying the opposition was supporting the installation of a chief minister in Mumbai whose party

had expressed support for Godse more than once.

Though the Speaker attempted to quell the protests by assuring the members that Thakur's "objectionable" remarks had been expunged from the LS records, the MPs insisted that she tender an apology and the government give a statement on the floor of the House.

Responding to the demands, the defence minister said, "Far from talking about Nathuram Godse being called a patriot, we condemn the idea of treating him as a patriot. His (Gandhi's) philosophy was, is and will remain relevant and he is as a guide (margdarshak) for the nation."

Not satisfied with the response MPs belonging to Congress, Trinamool, DMK, Left parties, NCP and AIMIM staged a walk-out. Rahul called her a "terrorist" whose remark reflected the "heart and soul" of BJP and RSS and said this could not be hidden.

During the Lok Sabha election campaign, the PM had said the remarks about Gandhi were "very bad and very wrong" for society.