

claimed that his wealth far exceeded the stated amount.^{[29][30]} In 2010, it was alleged that the Pawar family indirectly held a 16% stake in the City Corporation, which had bid ₹ 1176 crore for the IPL Pune franchise. Pawar and his family denied the allegations, but the IPL bidder's board resolution contradicted their claims.^{[31][32][33]}

Nira Radia's Allegations

In 2011, Under investigation of 2G spectrum scam Corporate Nira Radia has told the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar may be controlling the controversial DB Realty, media reports said on Thursday. According to the reports, she also told the investigative agency that he may have spoken with former telecom minister A Raja about the allocation of spectrum and licence to Swan Telecom. Radia also said that she had no documentary proof to back up her allegation.^[34] Pawar has denied any link with former DB managing director Shahid Balwa who is now in CBI custody.

Criticism of agricultural produce prices

As the Cabinet Minister for Agriculture, Pawar was consistently accused of being incapable of handling the extreme hike in prices of agricultural produce:

- **Wheat import in 2007** - Bombay High Court issued notices to Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar, questioning the decision to import defective red wheat and to submit details of procurement of the crop from different states and the exact process of importing it.^[35]
- **Sugar prices in 2009** - Opposition parties, including the BJP and the CPI(M) accused Sharad Pawar of engineering a steep rise in the price of sugar to the advantage of hoarders and importers.^[36]
- **Onion prices in 2010-11** - The opposition have accused him to be responsible on the same issue.^{[37][38][39]}

Lavasa

Sharad Pawar is alleged to have demanded compensation for allowing Lavasa to be constructed. When Lavasa Corporation was receiving necessary clearances from the government of Maharashtra, relatives of Pawar had part-ownership of the company developing the project.^[40] Pawar's daughter and son-in-law had more than 20% ownership between 2002 and 2004, and they later sold their stakes.^[41] A nephew of his was chairman of Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (MKVDC) when the MKVDC signed off on lease agreements for Lavasa and allowed it to store water and build dams.^[40]

Comments on the 2010 Pune bombing

After the 2010 Pune bombing of German Bakery, Sharad Pawar appeared to take the incident lightly, as he said to the reporters "It is not alright to arrive at a conclusion that the entire Pune city has been targeted. The place where the blast took place is an isolated area" adding "when I was Chief Minister, Mumbai saw 11 simultaneous blasts but everything returned to normal soon."^[42]

Farmer suicides

During his tenure as Minister of Agriculture, there have been farmer suicides in excess of 15,000 per year, totalling over 200,000 since 1997.^[43] Sharad Pawar has stated on record that he believes that the rate of farmer suicide in India is a 'normal thing'. However he reaffirms that he is taking the necessary steps to reduce the numbers.^[44]

Slapping incident

Pawar was slapped by a youth named Harvinder Singh at the New Delhi Municipal Corporation centre while leaving the premises after attending a literary function on 24 November 2011.^[45] The attacker, who previously is said to have assaulted former telecom minister Sukh Ram, was later arrested.

Motivation

Harvinder Singh is an auto-rickshaw driver and has no political affiliations. He said after slapping Pawar in Hindi that 'He is a thief, they are all thieves'. He said that he slapped Pawar because of corruption and price-rise.

Harvinder Singh's sister reportedly claimed that Singh was suffering from a mental illness, which is of course not true. Sharad Pawar is the reason for Onion price fluctuation from which he profited millions of rupees^[46]