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13.03 hrs.

Title: *hObservation by the Chairman, Committee to inquire into the incident of assault on Shri Devendra Pradesh Yadav, M.P.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): I, the Chairman of the Committee to Inquire into the Incident of Assault on Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, MP on 9 December, 2002, in New Delhi, present this Preliminary Report to the House on the incident of assault on Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, MP while he was leading a demonstration of farmers organised to demand permanent solution to the perennial flood/drought problems in Bihar.

The Committee at their sitting held on 11 December, 2002 decided that the factual note in this matter which was called for from the Ministry of Home Affairs and was expected to be received by the Secretariat should be perused before taking any further step in the matter.

The Committee, at their sitting held today, felt that there is a *prima facie* case for holding a detailed inquiry into the matter, which will require examination of relevant material connected with the case, viewing of video cassettes and perusing other information available. The Committee will also have to record the evidence of the concerned police officers who were on duty at the time of incident and other witnesses.

The Committee recommends that in order to ensure transparent and impartial inquiry into the matter, it will be in the fitness of things that Shri Manoj Lal, Police Officer-in-charge be placed under suspension till the inquiry by the Committee is completed. The Committee, however, like to emphasise that the above recommendation of the Committee should not be construed to mean that the concerned police officer has been found guilty.
