

**Title:** Requested the Minister of Home Affairs to conduct a CBI inquiry into the attack on the journalists of Tamil Nadu by Tamil Police.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is highly condemnable and unprecedented in the history of Tamil Nadu that journalists were attacked by Tamil Nadu police on the night of 12<sup>th</sup> August.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, a Commission of Inquiry is appointed to go into this incident.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Almost all the journalists condemned this attack. They went on a fast and adopted a unanimous resolution day before yesterday demanding that a CBI inquiry be conducted and the guilty be punished.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : This is a State Subject. They are politicising the issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, the subject given by the hon. Member is 'freedom of press in Tamil Nadu'.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : We in the DMK believe in the freedom of press very strongly. We support the demand of the journalists and request the Minister of Home Affairs to initiate action to conduct a CBI inquiry into the incident in order to render justice to the fourth estate.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : If the functioning of State Governments is to be debated here, why should they be in existence at all?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, the subject is 'freedom of press in Tamil Nadu'. I will go through the record to see if there is anything objectionable in what the hon. Member has said.