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Title:Need to inquire the matter of police atrocities against the women members of the Anti-Liquor Association agitating on the International Women's Day in Trivendrum.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : The International Women's Day was celebrated on 8th March by women organisations also. But there was an unfortunate incident in Trivandrum of Kerala. There was an agitation by women against use of liquor under the leadership of Anti-liquor Association. The police had beaten up the women agitators like anything on the International Women's Day. These women agitators were agitating for a very good cause and the cause was in accordance with the Constitution. There is a specific clause in the Directive Principles saying that we should have prohibition of alcohol.

Liquor and alcohol was the issue on which the agitators were agitating. While they were agitating, the police found that not palatable. They had not only stopped the agitators from agitating but also beaten up the women. Since they were beaten up like anything on the International Women's Day, I am sure that the Government would inquire into the matter because it is not a question of a State matter. It is a matter of women being beaten up very brutally in India when the International Women's Day was being celebrated.

So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to tell something about it.

SHRI RAM NAIK : If what the hon. Member has stated is true, it is a very serious matter. We will call for the information...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : It is entirely wrong. The hon. Member is misleading the House. Unfortunately, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is also reacting to it. It is purely a State matter...(Interruptions) The hon. Member is misleading the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : You cannot say like this. I am ready to authenticate it if you say that I am misleading the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : As I said earlier, it is purely a State matter. The hon. Member is misleading the House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is reacting to it. Why do you want to interrupt him? Please do not interrupt.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I was saying that if what the hon. Member has said is correct, it is a serious matter...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas, the hon. Member has raised some important matter. The Minister wants to react to it. Why are you interrupting him?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : It is entirely wrong. What is this?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Normally, the practice of the House is that if a Member raises a point, if it is thought to be correct, we respond. But I am saying that we will call for the information and pass on the information to the hon.

Member. We will request the Government to enquire into the matter and send the information...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Govindan, what the hon. Minister says is that he will find out whether there is any veracity in it. He did not say that it is correct. You should know it.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, why are they objecting to it?...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Shri Thomas, you do not know what happened. You are entirely misleading the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : The police have beaten up the women. That is why they are agitating.

SHRI RAM NAIK: We will call for the information.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, I do not mind the hon. Minister responding to it... (Interruptions)

श्री प्रभुनाथ सिंह : ये लोग बीच में हल्ला करते रहते हैं और आप कुछ नहीं कह रहे हैं। हम बोलते हैं तो आप हमें कहते हैं।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is yielding.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am only saying that if it is a question involving women and if something is to be stated, let him find out the truth. What I want to point out is that very selective responses are made by the Ministers on some issues. On how many Special Mentions made during 'Zero Hour' are the Ministers responding? Selective responses are increasing. Let us know the truth. But he should do it in a manner which is somewhat discreet...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Shri Somnath Chatterjee is a senior Member. He has every right to cast aspersion on a Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How many matters have been responded to?

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am not in that habit. I thought that it is a serious matter which pertains to women and that is why I am responding to it. That is why, I said that I would call for the information. I would request the Government of Kerala to give the information.