

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, February 22, 1991/Phalgun 3,
1912 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of our former colleague Shri M.S. Sivasamy.

Shri M.S. Sivasamy was a member of the Fifth Lok Sabha during 1971-77 representing Tiruchendur constituency of Tamil Nadu. Earlier, he had been a member of the Tamil Nadu State Assembly during 1967-70.

An able parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House. During his membership of the State Assembly, he served on various Committees of the House, including the Public Accounts and Estimates Committees.

He took special interest in Agriculture and Foreign Trade and visited East Germany and U.S.S.R. to get himself acquainted with the latest developments in the field of agriculture and promotion of Foreign Trade.

Shri Sivasamy passed away at Tuticorin on 17 February, 1991 at the age of about 74.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and, I am sure, the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

MR. SPEAKER: Question No.1. Shri Vasant Sathe....

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, we have given notice for the suspension of the Question Hour... *(Interruptions)*

[*Translations*]

MR. SPEAKER: Malik Saheb, please take your seat. Why are you troubling Mr. Acharia. All of you may please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): We have also given notices; Sir.... *(Interruptions)*

[*Translations*]

MR. SPEAKER: Madhu Dandavateji, it

is your hour, the Question Hour. It is your right. Why do you lose your right?

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): The country is ours, the Gulf is also ours. That is also true, Sir. Under rule 388, I am seeking your consent to move for the suspension of rule 32 regarding the Question Hour so that we can straight away take up the Adjournment Motion on the failure of the Government *vis-a-vis* the Gulf conflict... *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Could not it be taken up in Zero hour? Zero hour is there for raising such issues. I am only saying this much to you, Somnath Baboo as to why should we suspend the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: On such an important issue, we want the Question Hour to be suspended, Sir, so that we can immediately take up the Adjournment Motion for discussion. Sir, the country's foreign policy has been compromised, has been given a go-by... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Adjournment Motion can be taken up at 12 o'clock after the Question Hour... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, considering the importance of this subject, the Question Hour should be suspended and the Adjournment Motion should be taken up immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, if you continue with the Question Hour the importance of the subject does not lessen. It is there.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: There is a precedent, Sir.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Budaun): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the grave situation you should suspend the Question Hour, especially for this issue. Today you should suspend the Question Hour and arrange a discussion on this issue. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, even though this issue is important, you don't consider it. *(Interruptions)* The policy about the Gulf despite their current stand, in fact, originated with them. That is why they are hesitating to take this up. They may remember that from 1985 onwards it is their policy, with their intimate relationship with the U.S. Government, which led to this Gulf question. *(Interruptions)* What they are criticising is their own policy.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is very serious. It could be taken up after 12.00 hrs.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): Gulf issue is not important for you. The Question Hour is important.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Very serious. It is very important... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Harijans are being massacred. Such a grave situation is prevailing in the country. It is most important. I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion. You should allow a discussion on this. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have received your notice.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You suspend the Question Hour immediately. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, the other House also, recognising the primacy of this issue, is suspending the other business and taking up this issue. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would only like to submit... *(Interruptions)* Will you allow me, Sir? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We want that you suspend the Question Hour. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I would only like to submit to you, Sir, that the Gulf crisis need not be and should not be an issue which divides the House. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI (Siwan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please suspend the Question Hour. Atrocities are being committed on the Harijans in the country. There should be a discussion on it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALKA DAS: Atrocities are being committed on the Harijans in the country.

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I would only like to submit that the Gulf crisis need not be and should not be an issue which divides the House because the nation's interest is uppermost. If this House gives an impression

that we are divided on this issue, its international fall-out will not be good for the country. I understand, in the Rajya Sabha, the very same Opposition parties had agreed for a unanimous resolution and discussion. We also agree on many of the points which they are suggested; there is no disagreement. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please suspend the Question Hour and allow a discussion on atrocities on Harijans.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they have got the Budget suspended. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member Mr. Kurien has pointed out that in the Rajya Sabha they are having a discussion. In Rajya Sabha, there is no provision for Adjournment Motion. That is why they are forced to move the resolution. But here there is a provision for it and so we can suspend the Question Hour and start the Adjournment Motion. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: In Rajya Sabha, Question Hour has been suspended and they have already taken up the Gulf discussion. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I would only request that on such an important issue, the House need not be divided. So, immediately after the Question Hour we can take up the discussion.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: There is no time for that, because on Friday we cannot leave the Private Members' Business. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

atrocities are being committed on Harijans by the police. Harijans are being oppressed. They are being killed. As such the Question Hour may please be suspended and a discussion may be allowed on this issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not refusing to hold a discussion? *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us conclude the Question Hour first and then the Adjournment Motion can be taken up.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, please take your seat; there is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, heinous crimes have been committed by the police. Atrocities are being committed on Harijans. As such the Question Hour should be suspended and a discussion should be arranged on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard you. It is a very important matter. Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, we have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour to take up our Adjournment Motion immediately in relation to Gulf and specifically on the permission given by the Government to US Air Force planes to refuel in India.

MR. SPEAKER: My point is that let us get along with the Question Hour.

[English]

We will decide about it after Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: The incident of firing on Harijans is very shameful. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV (Faizabad): Please take up the case of massacre of Harijans first. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIM. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam): There is a murder of democracy in Tamil Nadu. The Prime Minister should resign. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yadavji, please take your seat.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIDINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of Harijans that was raised just now pertains to my constituency. I want to say that excesses have been committed on Harijans and the government have not taken any step in this regard. The Prime Minister is present here. I would, therefore, request him to get this matter investigated and take immediate action in this connection.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you did not listen to me..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am listening.

[*English*]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): After the question hour is over, adjournment motion can be taken up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: It is not being discussed... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Who is denying.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notices of adjournment motions on several subjects. I am considering the matter. Let the House proceed with the question hour which is also the right of Members.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: After the question hour is over, I would give opportunity to Members to raise the issues.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI (Siwan): In the past occasions also question hour has been suspended for taking up important issues, then what is the hitch now.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The issue relating to Harijans is of prime importance.

[*English*]

I am not entering into an argument with you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: If Budget can be suspended at the instance of Congress party then why can't you suspend the question hour.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT (Jaunpur): The Uttar Pradesh is the biggest state of India and the situation in that state is alarming. If you do not want to discuss the situation of that state then what do you want to do.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not preventing you.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALKA DAS: Suspend the question hour and take up the issue relating to Harijans.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are raising the Harijan issue, they want to discuss a different point and there are still others who are raising some other topic. As such it is not possible to take up everything at the same time.

[*English*]

There are so many issues before the

Government. I am only requesting you to proceed with the Question Hour. Let us proceed with the Question Hour and then I will hear you what you say.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us proceed with the Question Hour and then let us proceed further. I am not saying no to your Adjournment Motion.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: This is a very serious matter. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV (Godda): The Harijan issue is a very serious matter. As such it is utmost necessary to discuss it at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: I have never denied it. The issue pertaining to Harijans will be discussed.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody prevents you from discussing the subject.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (Delhi Sadar): Kindly suspend the question hour.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Out of the Adjournment Motions that you have received the issue relating to Harijans should be given top priority.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV (Azamgarh): Thirteen persons have been killed. In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar the Harijans and the poor are being brutally murdered. In Ballia also they have been massacred. In

view of this first of all you should take up this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Yadavji, please go back to your seat. I am looking into it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Khuranaji, I am not preventing you.

SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly suspend the question hour and allow this discussion. Grave atrocities are being committed on Harijans.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many people have been killed. Their deaths should be condoled and.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV: There is widespread resentment in Uttar Pradesh. They want blood for blood. The situation will become dreadful...

MR. SPEAKER: Yadavji, please go back to your seat. I have listened to you. Your approach is wrong.

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a conspiracy to kill Harijans... because Harijans in this country are weakest...

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: The Harijans have been killed. The Mulayam Singh Government should be dismissed. The Prime Minister may kindly dismiss the Mulayam Singh Yadav Government.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government is deliberately ignoring this issue. It is scared. The police is instrumental in the killings of Harijans. The Government is the culprit. Therefore, this government...

MR. SPEAKER: Yadavji, please resume your seat. I have listened to you...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You go back to your seat. Yadavji please take your seat. Kalka Dasji...

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mulayam Singh government should be dismissed.

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard you. Now you listen to me also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: This Government is the murderer of Harijans...

SHRI KALKA DAS: If this issue is not discussed the Harijans will feel...

MR. SPEAKER: Kalka Dasji, why there is a suspicion in your mind?

SHRI KALKADAS: If a discussion is not held over the massacre of Harijans, there may be serious repercussions in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Kalka Dasji, I have heard you. Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please suspend Mulayam Singh. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members over various issues. I have listened to all the hon. Members and in the first instance I am calling various party leaders in my chamber to have a dialogue with them with regard to adjournment Motion in order to take a decision in this regard. Till the time we take a decision on this matter, a Chairman can occupy this seat and continue with the question hour, thereafter we shall commence the proceedings. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

I would like the Members to give a patient hearing to the Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that the points that have been made relate to serious issues and the government is eager to hold discussion on both of them. The Government would hold a full fledged discussion on the issue pertaining to murder of Harijans that has been raised by the hon. Members. Many of our friends have mentioned it earlier also. Dinesh Singh ji has just now sent me in writing also. We are in the process of getting information from the Government... *(Interruptions)* Our friend Shri Madan Lal Khurana has raised that question in a more effective manner. I am impressed by what Shri Madan Lal Khurana has said. In view of this Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we hold a discussion on it then it should be done in such an atmosphere in which we can at least listen to each other. For fifteen minutes I was unable to make out as to why Shri Khuranaji was so much excited? Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would urge upon you to carry on with the question hour and in the meantime you may take a decision as to which issue you would like to take up first for discussion. However, I would like to make a request to hon. Khuranaji that in case he wants to have a fruitful discussion on it then we should also be given some time so that we could gather some information about it... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALKA DAS: The Prime Minister is not aware of what has happened. He says that Dinesh Singhji has informed. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Prime Minister has agreed that a discussion will take place, therefore, you should also agree and allow the discussion. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Both the issues are very serious. But a debate cannot

be held on both simultaneously. As such you give your verdict about the issue which you want to take up first. You may take a decision in consultation with the party leaders. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Lok Nath Choudharyji, please resume your seat, now I want to listen to the opposition leaders. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the members of the opposition have expressed their anxiety on these issues and they have given notice of adjournment motion on both the issues. A formal proposal to suspend the question hour is also there. Forty minutes have already gone. My submission is that the proposal regarding suspension of question hour may be adopted and you may allow discussion on whichever subject you consider more important. The hon. Prime Minister and the Government is ready for that. One of the two subjects relates to the massacre of 18 Harijans in Uttar Pradesh and the other one is... (*Interruptions*) other one is Gulf War. I think discussion should take place on both the issues, but I leave it to you as to which issue is to be discussed first. You may decide as you wish but it question hour goes on like this for another twenty minutes I do not think it would serve any purpose. Therefore it would be better if you allow suspension of question hour and allow discussion on one of the above mentioned subjects. This is my submission... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we did not give the notice for suspension of Question Hour casually. It was not a casual decision. Because of the very serious issue that is involved regarding refueling of US aircrafts which are combat aircrafts, that is a matter vitally concerning the whole nation. And because of that, conflicting reports have been coming in the newspapers about the Prime Minister's decision. We came to know that the US has stopped taking fuel: not that our Government took any decision. (*Interruptions*) That is why, considering the seri-

ousness of the matter, we gave a notice for suspension of the Question Hour. It was not a casual decision. Is it a normal matter? I do not know what is the attitude of the Congress party on this. (*Interruptions*) We want to pinpoint on the refuelling issue. That is why we gave our adjournment motion. After forty minutes, the Government has responded to this. We heard the *de facto* Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. But what was the Government doing for the last forty minutes? There was no response. It is easy to say, "We are now agreeable to the discussion". Why then they were opposing all this time, keeping quiet and silent about this? Is this matter important or not important? I would like to know this from the hon. House. Therefore, I request you to take up the adjournment motion on the refuelling issue. I am not minimising the other issue. That is also very important. As Shri Advani rightly said, hardly 15 or 20 minutes left for the Question Hour to be over. Therefore, now let us start with the adjournment motion on the refuelling issue. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is important for the entire Parliament, whether it is the Lower House or the Upper House.

AN HON. MEMBER: For the entire nation.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: I am talking of the procedure in Parliament. Sir, the very fact is that at the other place—it is customary not to refer to the other House, I can say, other place—suspending the Question Hour, the issue has been taken up for discussion. Members in both the Houses are concerned that the right to have the Question Hour should not be suspended normally. But, when a large section of this country and even many of us in this House feel that the time-honoured, policy of peace and non-alignment, in a number of respects in relation to the Gulf war have been violated—not only on the question of refuelling, but also other aspects and certain pronouncements—we would like this aspect to be discussed threadbare and we want to

discuss it through an adjournment motion, because there is an element of censure in that also. Therefore, as in the other place, here also we are insisting that we should have the discussion. I request you, since a few minutes are left, to allow us to move the adjournment motion and straightway we will proceed with the discussion on this issue which is today actually, engulfing the entire world. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, the issue of refuelling of American aircraft during the Gulf War is important. The Gulf war itself is engulfing the whole world. Refuelling is an important matter and not a casual one. It is an important matter, which is against all traditions of India. Therefore, I request you to allow us to move the adjournment motion, suspending the Question Hour. The other issue is also important, I agree. In view of this, I urge upon you to suspend the Question Hour and allow the discussion on adjournment motion. The Prime Minister said that it should be discussed. The adjournment motion is to censure the Government for doing a work which no Indian would like. Therefore, it should be taken up.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): We have given notice for suspension of the question hour not in a casual manner. We have given our thoughts that the question hour belongs to the Members of the House. We do not, in any way, like to curtail the right of the Private Members business of the House. But, Sir, an extraordinary situation has developed, particularly in relation to the Gulf situation, in our country. We have given adjournment motion in order to draw the attention of the entire nation and the world that the Government of India's policies have not been in conformity with the nationally—accepted foreign policy of peace and non-alignment. Therefore, the Parliament is the right forum to condemn the Government and censure the Government on this issue.

You should not deprive this House of its right to exercise one of its major tasks. (*Interruptions*) I would implore upon you that

you should give this Parliament the opportunity of condemning and censuring the Government on this national issue. Therefore, we have given an adjournment motion for proper consideration. I feel, you should give us the opportunity of moving the adjournment motion.

So far as the other item is concerned, that is equally important. It should be taken up later. But attention should be focussed on the issue of Gulf because that violates the basic spirit of the nation's policy of peace and non-alignment. (*Interruptions*)

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not under-mining the issues regarding refuelling and also Harijans which the Hon. Members have raised. But you have already mentioned in the House. We are having fifteen minutes of the question hour left. Therefore, we can take up the issue once we have finished the question hour. The Prime Minister also promised to take it up as soon as the question hour was over. (*Interruptions*) Today, we are having Private Members' business also. We want to know which issue are we going to take up now? As you have pointed out, the leaders of the various groups should discuss the issues. (*Interruptions*) We have no objection. I request all the Members and the Prime Minister to take them up after the question hour. And after 4 o'clock, Private Members' item can be taken up. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIJASWANT SINGH (Jodhpur): Sir, the submission that I wish to make is that of the two issues that are under consideration, one is the atrocities on Harijans and the other has been rather focussed on the question of Gulf. My submission is, whichever subject you take up, of course, it is your decision. But when it comes to the question of discussion of the war in the Gulf, I would, through you, put it across to the House that, of course, the aspect of refuelling is very important aspect, but that is not the total aspect. The war in the Gulf has an impact on our economy. So, war has a nexus with the national security. Therefore, if we discuss Gulf, my submission would be that we discuss

the totality of the situation of the Gulf, not merely the refuelling issue. Therefore, it is for you to consider whether adjournment motion is the best way to do it or some other method for discussing the Gulf. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore): Sir, there are two motions before you: one, notice regarding adjournment motion and the other; motion regarding suspension of question hour. Now when these two motions are there, then the notice for adjournment motion gets priority.

MR. SPEAKER: I know that.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Sir, this is such an important matter that without wasting any time, the matter on Adjournment Motion should be given the top priority. The Prime Minister has said that there is no foreign policy involved in this issue... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, I have got your point. Please take your seat. Mr. Dinesh Singh.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, there are two motions before the House, one is about the atrocities on Harijans and the other is about the Gulf. My friend has already given preference to the motion on the Gulf. Hon. Member, Shri Jaswant Singh said that the issue of refuelling is not a limited question. It is a much wider question of the Gulf as such. And there is a proposal by President Gorbachev which is now being discussed internationally. I think that the time has come for this House and the Government to express their support to the proposal given by President Gorbachev. Therefore, it would be more appropriate to take it up in a wider motion than the Adjournment Motion..... (*Interruptions*)... The Adjournment Motion on Harijans should be taken up and the Gulf issue should be taken up in a wider motion in which we can all express our views and

particularly, we support the proposals by President Gorbachev. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am taking up adjournment motion. Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been to Pratapgarh. On 14th night the police took away the harijans forcibly from their houses and shot them down in the jungle after tying their hands and feet... (*Interruptions*) Thereafter their bodies were brought in a jeep and it was told that the police shot them down in self-defence... (*Interruptions*) The Uttar Pradesh Government was later forced to suspend the concerned police officials. This proves that the policemen were really guilty and except a couple of persons, the rest were innocent. Not even FIR was lodged against them. This proves that the harijans in Uttar Pradesh are being deliberately killed by Mulayam Singh's Government... (*Interruptions*) Innocent people have been killed. Similarly, harijans who were killed on 14th January were all innocent. I would, therefore, urge the Government to give priority to this matter and the House should accept this proposal. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri V.P. Singh and my friends from the Left Front, Shri Bhogendra Jha and Shri Saiffudin Chowdhury had also gone there. The incident is really heart-rending. The way in Chaura. (*Interruptions*) The District administration forcibly took away 10 persons from Chaura under Kunda Police Station in Pratapgarh area. Apart from these 10 persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, 3 persons belonging to Kormi Community were also massacred. Nobody was involved in any case. The police took them away on same pretext. They said that they were to identify the criminal involved in a dacoity case. Later they were riddled with bullets. All this was done by the police. That is why I think there is direct involvement of the ad-

ministration. Just now the hon. Prime Minister said that I am trying to get necessary information. Mr. Prime Minister this incident happened on 14 January... (*Interruptions*) One month and eight days have passed and the Prime Minister says today that information is being collected. Earlier also I had demanded the dismissal of U.P. Government... (*Interruptions*) It is good that you have decided to suspend the question hour and allow discussion on the situation arising out of the Gulf war. Similarly the issue of Scheduled Castes should also be given priority. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM SAJIWAN (Banda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 13 harijans were brutally murdered near Kunda Police Station in Pratapgarh area. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Bhogendra Jha and CPM member Shri Saifuddin Chowdhury had gone there. Many other Members of this House had paid a visit to assess the situation there. All of us are unanimous that it is a criminal case. Therefore there is no need for any investigation but those policemen should be sent to jail and prosecution launched against them. Last time when a harijan was murdered in Fatehpur, when Shri V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had paid a visit there, but now when 13 harijans have been massacred he did not go there nor did any top leader of his party. Not only this the opposition leader Shri Advani also did not go there. They are just shedding crocodile tears. Shri Dinesh Singh has shown lot of sympathy for them. I know the entire House has sympathy for them. The Prime Minister did not have the courtesy to even pay a visit there. This is a serious matter. The Mulayam Singh Government should resign or it should be dismissed. 2-4 years old infants are dying of starvation. They have not been provided any relief. The State Government has announced Rs. 25000 as ex-gratia payment to the next of kin. Our demand is to pay Rs. 2 lakhs in each case to the next of kin of the deceased. (*Interruptions*) Besides they

should also be given *Pattas* of land and at least one person from their family should be given Government employment also.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRIRAMSAJIWAN: The entire House condemns Prime Minister's not paying a visit to this area. Where has Shri Rajiv Gandhi gone? We ask him to explain... (*Interruptions*) The BJP raises a lot of hue and cry, they can reach Ayodhya but they can't reach the place where Harijans have been massacred. Why didn't Advaniji go there when the leader of CPM and our party could go there. The root cause of the problem is the Chief Minister himself, therefore we should ask for his resignation.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had raised this matter. The heinous murders that have taken place in Uttar Pradesh have not been committed by any person but police itself. Therefore a discussion on it is utmost necessary. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is unanimous, that Shri Mulayam Singh should resign. It is unfortunate that the Prime Minister is not aware of the incident even after one month. He should resign for being ignorant about the incident.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the atrocities committee on Harijans in Pratapgarh... (*Interruptions*) This relates to human lives. This massacre has been done at the instance of the Chief Minister. Therefore you give your ruling on this...

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question hour is over.

(*Interruptions*)
