

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Government interested in responding?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, very briefly I would like to assure the House that the Government is fully conscious and sensitive to the problems of the working class. I would like to repudiate in most categorical terms the allegations that have been levelled against the Government. I am prepared for a debate if the Members so wish. We could have a detailed debate in which every aspect of the new policy, and the new reforms programme which we have elucidated, will be re-elucidated. There will be no problem on that score. But I would certainly like to tell the hon. Members that it is not fair that when some people have come, in the name of those people with whom we have full sympathy, you are hurling charges after charges. This is not proper. This is not fair. I would like to know if any of those workers have been actually retrenched. I would like to meet them.....

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Yes, Sir.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Please listen. If actually some workers have been retrenched on grounds which are not fair, I would certainly like to look into those cases.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You are qualifying it.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: There is no qualification.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pathakji.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VIALS PASWAN (Rosera): When there will be privatisation, what will

happen to reservation?

*[English]*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Then, why have you stopped budgetary support?

12.45 hrs.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

**Alleged assault by Police Officers on Shri Harin Pathak, M.P. in Ahmedabad on 23rd November, 1992**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is present here. I would like to request him to stay here for two minutes to listen to the atrocities committed against women.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is not that a Member of Parliament has been beaten before the public at a road crossing and I happen to be that M.P. This is not the question..... *(Interruptions)*. I narrate the incident which took place with me. Hon. Prime Minister, the question is not that a Member of Parliament is beaten while performing his duties as an M.P. and the Police officer treated him in this manner. Unfortunately I am that M.P. But in this Parliament I had pledged to protect the poor and the women. I was discharging this duty of mine.

Women were organising a programme at 5 p.m. in Ahmedabad on 23rd. Making a human chain they were standing on Nehru bridge. I had to come here to attend the session of the House by the night flight. I was standing there as a people's representative. I reached there late. Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I reached there I saw that some police officers and personnel were illtreating the

women. There were about 20-25 women and 50 youths. They forcibly pushed the youths in the van. There was no lady police. Blouses of women were torn..... (*Interruptions*) Police was dragging them. How could I remain a mute spectator to all this. It was happening in my own constituency. I asked the police officers that why they had not called the lady-police as the police personnel are not behaving properly with the ladies. They have torn the blouse of Subhadra Behan. They are taking them forcibly into the van. But nobody was prepared to listen. I at once sat near the police van. I said that it will not be allowed in the country. Bring lady police and if they have committed any crime take legal action against them and take them away in police van. Nobody listened to me. As I sat near the police van and said I cannot see injustice against the women, an S.P. Mr. Desai started beating me with a lathi. He also lathicharged the women. Women started running here and there. Some women came to save me and they were also hurt.

Meanwhile a Deputy Police Commissioner came to my rescue. I stood up and said to him that I did not want anything; I only wanted that lady police should be called and these women should be protected; if they would not do so then I will report this incident to the hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha. As soon as I completed this sentence, that same officer Mr. Desai who had done this, said — I categorically quote his words. "Teri Lok Sabha Ki Aisi - Taisi" and started beating me. He beat me up badly. The journalists, press persons, photographers were present there. All newspapers have reported this incident. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask in the House as to how long the women of this country will have to tolerate all these things. I, myself said that if I had violated the law, shoot me. (*Interruptions*) It is alright that they beat me before the people and say "Teri Lok Sabha Ki Aisi-Taisi." I don't bother about that but I can't remain an M.P. like this. If all these things happen before me then how

can I remain a mute spectator. I said that he should be suspended. Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, I am presenting these photographs before you. First of all he should be suspended. This incident has not happened for the first time. Prior to it also a police officer had beaten the people's representatives. He does not lathicharge. He insults them. I want justice for women against the atrocities committed on them. Now this House should see as to what action should it take.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar):  
 Mr. Speaker, Sir, I remember that earlier also a police officer was brought before this house because he had insulted an M.P. I don't remember as what the M.P. was doing, but it had been mentioned here that the M.P. was discharging his duties as a Member of Parliament. For this reason it is high handedness. Such cases are sent to the Privilege Committee. But the incident narrated by Shri Harin Pathak, M.P. from Ahmedabad constituency, who was discharging his duties as an M.P. and whatever the police officer said in insulting words is contempt of the Parliament as well as of the M.P. Therefore, I think all the Members will support whatever Shri Harin Pathak has said and authorise you to true moto refer such cases to the Privilege Committee of the Parliament for making inquiry and necessary action should be taken and if contempt of the Parliament is proved, then the police officer should be awarded suitable punishment.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious issue. It should directly be sent to the Privilege Committee.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roser):  
 Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are the Speaker of the House and if any hon. Member is insulted while discharging his duties as a Member, in this case on an hon. Member was slapped, it needs no witness. Therefore, we request you to send it directly to the Privilege Com-

mittee and the Government should be directed that action should be taken against such a police officer so that no other police officer ventures to insult a Member.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It has been said. We had also heard about it yesterday. We had read about it in the newspaper today. We have heard the hon. Member himself today. What he has said naturally causes greatest concern to all of us. We have to function here. We have to represent the people's views, their problems etc. Therefore, this is a fit case, no doubt, and I am sure, in your wisdom, you will immediately refer it to the Privilege Committee.

But I request you also that there is a pending matter before you, Shrimati Suseela Gopalan's matter. She was also assaulted in Kerala. That case may be disposed of early by you.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): We fully agree for the reference to the Privileges Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, we are very sorry that we had to hear this thing on the floor of this House that this thing happened to one of the hon. Members of the House. The House is unanimous on the action that is to be taken. I am also of the view that such action, which will not allow these kinds of incidents to happen in future, should be taken in the matter. I would go through all those things. As to how I have to deal with it, I will decide. If anything more is required from Shri Harin Pathak, I will take it. I will decide it properly. But you can rest assured that on the facts which are before us, the action has to be such as to give a message that this thing should not be happening to the Members.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in connection with the case, the details of which have appeared in the newspaper and in which it is said that the hon. Member has been beaten, it is our demand that before the evidence begins, the S.P. should be suspended.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, regarding the Public Sector Policy, the Prime Minister has not responded properly. Why is the Government not giving the monetary support to the Public Sector Undertakings? Why has the Government withdrawn the Budgetary Support? The workers are not getting their salary. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will now allow Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, you must be on a different issue and not on the same issue. Because, if you continue, others will also continue. So, you must be on a different point. Otherwise, I will call someone else.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roserai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want an information from the hon. Prime Minister through you that there is a provision of reservation for the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the public sector but what about reservation in the private sector.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): I will state the position during the course of discussion. (Interruptions)