

12.00 hrs.

RE: DEMONSTRATION BY INDUSTRIAL & AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AT BOAT CLUB TO EXPRESS THEIR SENTIMENTS AGAINST THE NEW ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee is one who has participated in the demonstration. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): I want to place before you that lakhs and lakhs of people have come here to oppose the economic policy of the Government. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, I have given a notice of breach of privilege. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We have given a notice for Adjournment. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. You know that we have been calling the Members to express their views on the floor of the House. We can do it one after the other. But if all of you stand up, it is very difficult to call the names. I had called the name of Shri Basudeb Acharia but nobody has headed. So, please, one after the other, you can do it. I am allowing Shri Pathak also. But it is not necessary all the time to say that I am doing it. Let us follow a procedure.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Sir.....

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow after this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, we have given a notice for Adjournment.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, what about our notice regarding Adjournment? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, you sit down. If you help yourself, that would be better. You shall have to speak one after the other. If you do not want to help yourselves, then call of you get up. I am ready to have a discussion on the discussion which we have immediately after the Question Hour for one hour, may be tomorrow or day after tomorrow as to how we do it here.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, we are asking as to what happened to our notice regarding Adjournment. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am trying to help you. Don't sit down only when I raise my voice. Even without that, you should do, it is more graceful. It is you who are taking the time. You can do it one after the other. But if all of you stand up together, then it is difficult. Please help yourselves, help me and the House also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, today, more than ten lakh workers from all over the country have come and as-

sembled at the Boat Club. They are demonstrating there.

Sir, the workers, the people all over the country as also, we, the Members of Parliament, have been raising in this very House that the Government has adopted this policy on the direction of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the multinational Corporations. They are changing the basic policy of our country. The Sick Industry Act has been amended. They have declared 58 public sector undertakings as sick. Those 58 public sector undertakings have been referred to the Board of Industrial and Financial Re-construction (BIFR).

The Budgetary support which all these public sector units received last year, the Government have refused to give this budgetary support to all these public sector units this year.

The Prime Minister has announced a number of times that the public sector units which were at the commanding heights of the economy, that position will not be there. They are gradually privatising them. They have opened the doors of our country to foreign multinational corporations. They have changed their industrial and economic policies.

If the 58 public sector units which have been referred to the BIFR are closed down, and if the budgetary support which all these public sector units received last year is not given to them this year, then what will happen to them. (*Interruptions*) They have not received a single paisa from the Government this year. Four lakh workers have been thrown out of employment.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to draw the attention of the Government. Regular speech is not required. If you want a regular discussion on this, you give a regular notice. We will look into it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What was there in the election manifesto of the Congress (I)? What did they declare before the election? It was there in the election manifesto of the Congress (I) that when they came to power, ten million unemployed youths would get employment. That was their assurance; that was there in their election manifesto. Instead of employing ten million unemployed youths, they are now planning to throw four lakh workers out of employment.

MR. SPEAKER: This cannot go on like this. Please Shri Basudeb Acharia, you hear me first. You must hear me first. You know there are other Members who want to raise important issues. If you are making a regular speech on the broad policies of the Government of India.....

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I am not making a long regular speech.

MR. SPEAKER: You please hear me first at least what I am saying. You don't have the patience also to hear me what I am saying. I am trying to accommodate all other Members also. If you make a long speech on the entire policies of the Government of India, you will not get a reply from the Government in this kind of a debate.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I will finish it. They are now selling out the country's independence to the IMF and the World Bank. Our economic independence is in danger; our political independence is also in danger; our Independence and sovereignty is also in danger now.

We had a fight of the workers and the peasants in our country. Twice the people of our country observed strikes and bands throughout the country against the anti-people, policy, against the anti-working class policy of the Government. And they are selling out this country.

MR. SPEAKER: I am now allowing Mr. Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRIBASUDEBACHARIA: The Minister is here. He should explain the policy of the Government which the Government has adopted at the dictate of the IMF and the World Bank.

MR. SPEAKER: Now whatever he is saying will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing Mr. Somnath Chatterjee; and he will speak on behalf of all of you. There are other Members also. I want to give them a chance also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): I am happy that the hon. Prime Minister is here.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): I also want to take one minute.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: For 18 months, this Government has been implementing its policies, new economic policy, new industrial policy, trade policy.

I request the hon. Prime Minister to appreciate why lakhs of workers have come from all over India and are now at the Boat Club. They are demonstrating there; they are expressing their feelings against these policies. These policies have not brought about any improvement in the economic conditions of the people of this country. The people are facing greater problems. There is a price rise, unabated price rise. There is a stagnation in the industry, stagnation in the agriculture. Workers are losing their jobs, VRS is being pushed through the throats of these workers. There is no new employment

anywhere. The multi-nationals are coming in. IMF and World Bank's influence over our economic policies is very discernible. There is no hide and seek about it any longer.

The Exit Policy is threatened to be introduced. You can fund money for putting into the National Renewal Fund. That is not for giving a job but for taking a job. There is no plan, no policy, only we have heard what they have said about training and redeployment which is totally absent anywhere. Therefore, the result of this policy has been disastrous for this country.

The country is going backwards. There is dwindling in exports. The foreign exchange reserve is artificially being boosted by borrowing money from abroad. Therefore, the country is facing the acute economic situation. The workers are already suffering and they will be the victims of this policy. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister not to belittle this, do not ignore the feelings and sentiments of lakhs of workers who have taken the trouble of coming from all over the country to represent before this Government, demand from this Government that these policies should be reversed.

Sir, on the floor of the House, representing these people, we demand solemnly that the Government seriously consider that this anti-people anti-working class policy should be firstly reversed and to have a proper consultation and discussion. A new policy should be adopted which will be in tune with our national ethos and our policies and programmes.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you are on a different point.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpur): No, on the same point.

**Not recorded.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today lakhs of working class people, the builders of the nation who make major contribution to national wealth have poured into the capital from all over the country. The hon. Prime Minister is present in the House. The new economic policies of the Government have put millions of workers into the dock, so much so that they have been compelled to pour into the capital to seek redressal of their grievances.

For the past one and a half years, we have been receiving initiations and daily counsels at the feet of experts of the I.M.F. and the World Bank. The hon. Prime Minister should not break the hearts of the working class and he should give an immediate assurance today itself that he would hold talks tomorrow itself with the representatives of the Trade Unions present in the capital on the economic policies being pursued by this Government so that announcement can be made at the rally to the effect that the Prime Minister has complete faith and trust in the working class of this country. The economic policies pursued by the Government have so far indicated that the Prime Minister neither has faith in the workers nor does he care for them. Leave apart other things, certainly a message of trust and concern should emanate from the hon. Prime Minister and he should make an announcement to the effect that the Government would hold talks with all the leaders of the trade unions gathered in the capital on the issue of Government's economic policies which affect millions and millions.

Today, the Government should also clarify its stand on the Rehabilitation Renewal Fund. It is not yet clear as to the discipline in which training would be imparted and the employment opportunities envisaged, which is nil. Much is said about capital mobility. Capital can be transferred through cheques, but a family which has

been deprived of its source of livelihood, cannot be transferred through cheques. The recently introduced rehabilitation schemes are meaningless except on paper. The Government should also convince as to how they are going to do it.

Sir, workers participation in management should replace the ongoing privatisation programme. Privatisation won't bail us out of the situation. The example of Kamani Tube is before us. The workers shared that sick unit running in losses and made profits when it was handed over to them..... (*Interruptions*) I don't want to deliver a long speech. The Government also says that it proposes to privatise railway ticket sales and also good trains. Even public lavatories have been privatised. One rupee has to be paid to use public lavatories. Tax on use of lavatories in a country where even two square meals are not available..... (*Interruptions*). The Government should make an announcement in the House with regard to workers' participation in management.

Our second demand is that if capital plays a pivotal role in generation of wealth, so does the sweat of workers. The National Front Government has made an announcement in this regard. We had introduced a Bill regarding labour participation in management with the maximum support of all parties and the left parties had lent tremendous support. Our Bill is still there and the Government should convey a positive message. It should also see to it that the Bill is passed in this session. Sir, if this announcement is not made, then the toiling masses of this country will firmly raise their voice again and put forth their demand before you. It should be announced today itself. This has become the policy of the working class, our industries and also our labourers and farmers. One fails to understand the praises showered on the industrial policy, wherein the small scale industries have taken a back seat. Even Shri Advani got enchanted for a while, but now he

has been disillusioned. They went to as far as America and said..... (Interruptions) such an industrial policy should be formulated which would make even the industrialists say that it is an excellent slaughter house or for that matter, a major high tech slaughter house. If they don't require it, the Government may use it. The small scale industries will be wiped out soon. The Government should concede the demand of the working class and make an announcement in this regard. This would be a major step towards winning the confidence of the working class, in the noble task of building a new India..... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, already some of my colleagues have mentioned the principal issues on which this demonstration is taking place. I am marching straight from Lai Quila to Boat Club and the rally has come here. I have seen lakhs of people, with anger in their eyes, agony in their mind about losing their jobs and getting our country completely immersed in a debt trap.

Therefore, I would like the Prime Minister to have a look at them, not only calling them here to discuss, but also to have a look at them and then decide that he must change this policy if he wants to give any peace to these workers, peasants, as well as *khet mazdoors* who are marching.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to bring to your notice that yesterday you wanted to discuss a very important issue. We have fixed that important issue for discussion and now you want to have a regular discussion on this topic which cannot be allowed. There are other matters which I have to allow. I am allowing Shri Harin Pathak to speak.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): We have given notice of an

Adjournment Motion. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We have given notices. (Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barackpore): This is not the place only to carry out bureaucratic decisions..... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Let the Prime Minister say something on this issue so that the message goes to the workers of this country..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you all sit down, I can help you. Please sit down first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Members of the workers' Union are sitting on a dhama.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not shout like this. Do you want the House to be adjourned?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): We have given a notice for Adjournment Motion. Let the Prime Minister respond. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Surya Narayan Yadav, please sit down. You are going beyond a certain limit. I will take action against you if you do not go back to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Well, the leaders should see that their Members take their seats. I should be allowed to regulate the House.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow us also to speak. Members of the workers union are sitting on a Dharma.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister is present in the House.

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow each and every Member to speak on this point provided you give me a regular notice. Do you want the matter which you raised yesterday to be discussed on the floor of the House or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Surya Narayan Yadav, you have to go back to your seat. You go back to your seat. This is not correct.

(Interruptions)

(interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: May I request the Prime Minister to say something on this?..... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, We have also given notice. Please allow us to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I can help you.

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Surya Narayan Yadav, you are not keeping quiet. I have noted what you have been doing. If you had given me a notice and if you want that the matter which you wanted to discuss today should not be discussed, I can take up this matter.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): We want to censure the Government..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given a notice.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We have given

a notice for Adjournment Motion (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER I can take up the Adjournment Motion

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURIYA NARAYAN YADAV Mr Speaker, Sir, please allow us also to speak, we have given a notice

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER Shri Surya Narayan Yadav, you keep quiet I have noted what you have been doing without understanding Yesterday you wanted that certain matter should be discussed in the House and I have fixed that matter for discussion today Do you want that matter to be discussed or not?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura)
That is at 2 P M (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER So, you want that matter to be discussed today If you want this matter to be discussed, please give me a notice as Mr V P Singh has said and then I will consider it

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR SPEAKER Please allow me to speak First, I said it in English Now, I will say in Hindi You yourself had yesterday demanded a discussion on a matter of public importance I accepted your notice and placed the discussion on the agenda Today you are giving a notice to adjourn the House If you forget what you said yesterday and start giving notices, how will it do? You can give

notices for tomorrow, day after tomorrow or for any day you may like It can be taken into consideration

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH
Lakhs of workers from all over the country have come to the capital So, please give a patient hearing to the workers' problem till 2 p m and take up other topics thereafter. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER There has been an assault on an hon Member He has given those photographs to me and they are with me You are not in possession of these documents, but I have them with me It also calls for our attention

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH
Please refer the matter to the Privileges Committee

MR SPEAKER I am doing just that, but you should allow me at least to listen to it

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura)
You can refer this matter to the Privileges Committee (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER I cannot talk to each one of you.

[*Translation*]

Listen, this matter is not before you It is with me I need some time for it, taking everything into consideration You should do justice to that hon Member also If he has sent me photographs showing him being beaten up by some one, I will look into it You are getting agitated, because you are not aware of it

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roser): We know that it is a serious matter. Please refer the matter to the Privileges Committee. The hon. Member should not have any objection to it... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We are demanding that the Prime Minister should speak. Why is he not responding?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): The Prime Minister should respond. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Paswan should go to his seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You see, the Prime Minister is sitting there to listen to you. He will speak, if you request him to do so, but first of all, you should create an atmosphere so that he may speak. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barackpore): They do not care for the working class of the country.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAY CHAUDHURI (Serampore): The Prime Minister should respond *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Every time you are shouting like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Let the Prime Minister respond. You kindly

admit the adjournment motion, as Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh has suggested. That can be a way out. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow two or three Members to speak. Later on, we will go to the next topic.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDARSAN RAY CHAUDHURI: This is a very serious situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the wish of the House that we continue with this point a little longer and then Mr. Harin Fathak will be called to speak?

[Translation]

SHRI LOKNATHJI: Please speak. All of you please sit down. Shri Loknathji only will speak..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Shri Pathak has given a notice. He should be allowed to speak first. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Let the Prime Minister respond, Sir..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Somnathji, you should ask your members to resume their seats.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Prime Minister should respond..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Well, these are very important matters and you are legitimately raising them on the floor of the House. The only thing is you please follow the procedure

which will help you also If all the time everybody is standing up and speaking, one does not know what you really want and how do you want..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Somnathji, what is the demand of your party, please let me know. I cannot hear everybody, let me hear you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I had made a request that this is an important matter and I hope the Government is not taking it lightly.

MR. SPEAKER: No, certainly not. That is why the Prime Minister is sitting here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, so many workers have assembled here to express their feelings and sentiments. There are some very basic issues they are raising. Therefore, we expect that when the Prime Minister is here, there should be some response to this as to whether the Government has any thinking on this at all or whether these workers will have to go back with a feeling that they have come to Delhi and the Government is totally insensitive and they are assigned to their own fate and they have to find out a solution on the streets. Is that the decision of this Government or what is the feeling these people will have and will go back with? Therefore, I expected that when the hon. Prime Minister is here, when he has been kind enough to spend some time even after 12 o'clock, he should kindly respond to this..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Somnathji, I have understood you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: And, Sir, I can assure my friends here that we have nothing against them. We shall support immediate reference of the matter to the Privileges Committee. Why is it not being done? Let it be done and let the Prime Minister respond to this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: That means you will not allow our Member to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. I am allowing him.

[*English*]

Somnathji, I want to know one thing. Do you want the Prime Minister to respond immediately or you want some Members of yours to speak?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Some Members to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K., how many Members?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Shri Lokanath Choudhury from CPI wants to speak, Shri Chitta Basu is there, Shri Saikia is there, Shrimati Suseela Gopalan is there. Four or five persons will speak, Sir..... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am speaking, please listen.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): We are just wasting the time in this manner. How can the business of the House be transacted here?

MR. SPEAKER: Look, I am assisting you.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Once you have called the name of a Member, let him speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to help you, please co-operate.

(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: See, if you do not help me, I cannot help you..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed the representatives of many of the parties to speak on this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. I am speaking to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can I speak to all of you? I am speaking to you. I do not speak much. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to help you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We are also trying to help you. But on this issue we are not going to be divided. We want to say that this is a matter where Members' rights are involved. Let it go immediately to the Privileges Committee. We do not mind.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, Let Shri Pathak's issue be taken first. I will be happy.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY

(Katwa): Sir, if you want let Shri Pathak's issue be taken first.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not like this. You are adopting a different position.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please dispose off his issue first then you may take up the other issue.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paswan, you are a very senior and seasoned member. All of you are very good parliamentarians. You forget this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow two-three more Members to speak and then if the Government want, they may respond. It is upto the Government. Shri Pathak, I am not going to leave the House until I hear you and properly finish this.

It should not be necessary for me to explain these things every day on the floor of the House. You should take it for granted. Now Shri Lokanath Choudhury will speak.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister, through you, that today lakhs of workers from all over the country have come to Delhi. The Prime Minister has taken a new economic policy. That has already worked for one-and-a-half years. It is enough to realise from the expression of the people outside the disaster brought by the economic policy to common man during the past one-and-a-half years. We

are bringing temporary and unproductive loans. What would be the amount of structural adjustment? How to meet it? The workers are apprehending retrenchment. Already some are retrenched. The prices have gone so high that I would tell the hon. Prime Minister that the thing which was costing one rupee is now - costing five rupees in the market. This is the outcome of the economic policy.

The Prime Minister must take this into consideration and stick to the policy which the nation propounded under Mahatma Gandhi and Panditji. It is not correct to say that they have thrown away the Nehruvian models. They take the name of Pandit Nehru who saved this country. This is unfortunate.

I would request the Prime Minister that at this time, at this juncture of the country where very communal forces are dividing the country, the discontent among the working people is not good. This gives them an opportunity to divide this country. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Prime Minister today to keep the country united and take it in the path for which the country stood for. Therefore, the time has come for the Prime Minister to review the policy. He should hear the demands of the workers and he should also see what disaster his policy has already brought to this country. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA (Tonk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please call Shri Pathak also.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told him. I will listen to him also. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will take a proper action in the matter.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you said that you would listen to Shri Pathak also. I request you that after Shri Lokanath Choudhury you should listen to him also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandeya, you please sit down. I have told him. I will listen to him also. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, I urge upon the Prime Minister to take note of the sentiments that are being conveyed through lakhs of industrial and agricultural labourers who have come over to Delhi to express their serious discontent against the new economic, industrial and trade policies that have been pursued by the present Government.

Sir, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly bring a drastic change in the present policies of the Government. Till now, this Government is showing a step-motherly treatment towards the agricultural sector. So, the country is paying a very heavy price due to the Government's negligence towards the agricultural sector. Apart from that on the industrial front also, due to the present policies of this Government, the doors are being opened for big multi-national companies and *crore-patis*, but small industries are being closed and are going to be closed in the future also, as a result of which lakhs of people are going to be rendered jobless, in addition to the crores of people who have already registered them-

selves in the Employment Exchanges. Unless labour-oriented policies are adopted, this country will be going down the path of disaster.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your points. Please conclude now.

SHRISHOBHANADREESWARARAO VADDE: So, we urge upon the Prime Minister to take note of these points and bring about the necessary changes in the policies of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduars): Mr. Speaker, Sir, economic policy is formulated for the benefit of common people. But the new economic policy of the Government is rendering the common people and particularly, the workers in factories jobless. Today, price of every commodity is rising. There is loot everywhere. Now the ruling party has turned into a looting party. It is essential to change such policies. Our hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. If he thinks that the new economic policy which has been adopted for this country will benefit the people here, he should rise and say that it will be advantageous and beneficial for the poor and the common people of the country. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to discuss the economic policy during the Zero Hour? You must know that it is not proper to discuss economic policy during the Zero Hour.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today workers particularly Railway Workers from all over the country have come here. All the Railway employees, the Guard Council Union, the Running Staff and Hawker's Union are sitting on a dharna here since the 24th. One month back a memorandum was given to the hon. Minister of Railways, but he took no

action on it. Today there are a number of disparities in the Department of Railways. The employees are being retrenched there. But the Government is not ready to pay any attention to it. The present policy of the Government and arbitrary changes in the duties of the workers are adversely affecting all of them. The industrial policy of the Government is also against the interest of workers. The Government should pay attention to it promptly and take certain concrete action and the hon. Prime Minister should make a statement on it.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you give time to speak to the Members who make noise in the House. You had said that you will give time to speak to our party whip but so far he has not been given time to speak..... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with all humility let me appeal to the Prime Minister who is here in this House to take a response. We want a response from the Prime Minister because of his assurance.

MR. SPEAKER: All members have asked for Government is response. Now why are you folding hands for that.

[English]

SHRICHITTABASU: Sir, the economic and industrial policies of the Government has led to unemployment, price rise, privatisation and selling away of the sovereignty of the country, both economic and political. Our demand is that the Government should work towards the reversal of the entire policy and save the country from the impending disaster.

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