

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Monday, December 9, 1991/Agrahayana
18, 1913 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given a notice for the suspension of Question Hour. Sir, today, there is a *bandh* in Kerala. This has never happened, that police entered into the party headquarters office and injured one of our colleagues, Shrimati Suseela Gopalan. She has been injured by Police lathi charge.

MR. SPEAKER: We will look into it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a very serious incident and we want that Question Hour should be suspended. The Home Minister should make a statement since this is a very serious incident.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): This is a very serious issue. A Member of Parliament was assaulted. You should give your observation on it. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We will certainly look into it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will certainly look into this matter and this matter will be dealt with appropriately.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not have any doubt in your mind. I have no information that the hon. Member of this House has been injured or assaulted. I will get the information and we will deal with this matter in an appropriate manner. You can rest assured.

(*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, the Home Minister is here. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have no doubt in my mind that...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is an assault on democracy. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to give you some relief. I have no doubt in my mind when the hon. Member of this House is concerned or involved—that we will get the appropriate information from the Home Ministry also.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will try to get the information. But the present information that I have is, yesterday in the MPs meeting, the Chief Minister has announced a judicial inquiry into this matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, pending inquiry, the police officer responsible for this must be

suspended. This is the normal minimum thing that should be done. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, the Chief Minister has already announced a judicial inquiry into this matter. No doubt, we fell for her; but they are misleading the House. And that is why I am protesting. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you think that this is a serious matter, let us deal with it in such a fashion that we will be able to produce something. If all of us talking together, nothing comes out of it. Now, I am allowing Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very unfortunate incident. It has two aspects. The State Government's order for a judicial inquiry against the conduct of the police is a right step. But the issue of misbehaviour of the police with the M.Ps is agitating the hon. members more. This issue is not concerned with the Ministry of Home Affairs and even the members concerned from both the Houses have not returned to the capital. The hon. Speaker should look into any such incident involving misbehaviour on the part of the police with the M.Ps in any state, whosoever may be the ruling party there.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Vajpayee has just spoken about this. I would like to say only this much that you are our custodian and guardian. In such incidents the ruling of the speaker has been that...*(Interruptions)* Do not laugh please, tomorrow such incident may happen with you also. Do not think... *(Interruption)*

Today, not one party is ruling all the States. There are different parties ruling in different states. If this trend is allowed to go unchecked, neither M.Ps nor Ministers will be spared. This issue is related to their privilege. We are not concerned about the judicial or any other inquiry ordered by the State Government. We request you to take

it very seriously. We have given a notice for referring this issue to the Committee on Privileges. The hon. Member will give it in writing when she comes back. Since you are the custodian and guardian of the dignity of the House, you are requested to protect the rights of the Members of Parliament.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, it was the most barbaric behaviour of police with the MP. This is the telegram I have received from Shri M.A. Baby, MP of the other House. The same kind of treatment was meted out to Shrimati Suseela Gopalan, who is our Deputy Leader and a Member of this House. Here he says:

"While talking to the senior police officer, another police officer, whom I can recognise..."

MR. SPEAKER: Do not read it now.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: "...in an identity parade pushed a stone into my mouth and uttered filthy words." Same kind of treatment was given to Shrimati Suseela Gopalan. What is this behaviour of the police? The Chief Minister says-I heard it in the Radio news: "The police acted with restraint." Is this the way to justify the bad action of the police? *(Interruptions)* Are we living in a democracy?

It is good that the Chief Minister has ordered a judicial inquiry. Why has he not ordered suspension of the police officer responsible for this, who can be identified by the MP-the victim? It is our duty. It is beyond party politics. It is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Right.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: What is the Home Minister saying about it? There has to be a norm. *(Interruptions)*

It is very necessary that the Home Minister assures this House that he will talk to the Chief Minister so that the responsible

police officers are suspended forthwith. That is what democracy demands. I have also given a privilege notice. I request you to take it up immediately for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Right please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow one or two Members.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt, Mr. Basu Deb Acharia. It is not necessary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing Mr. Chacko to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have given a notice, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: You might have given. I will give you the ruling now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): Sir, I thank you because you have allowed some of the Members to speak on this subject as they said that it is a matter affecting the privilege of a Member. If this is such a matter, everybody would have supported this issue. Mrs. Suseela Gopalan, Mr. M.A. Baby, Mr. Ahmed, Mr. Thomas and myself, we all attended a conference convened by the Chief Minister at Trivandrum. We were all there. (Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: How do you know that? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: It is a very serious situation.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Opposition leader, Shri Nayanar, demanded that there should be an inquiry and without looking into it whether there is a prima facie case or not, the Chief Minister ordered a judicial inquiry, as also demanded by Mrs. Suseela Gopalan, Mr. M.A. Baby and others.

What happened in Trivandrum is not the police encroaching into the rights and privileges of Members but two Members of this House, using the privileges, were leading an attack against the police. 23 policemen are in hospital with serious injuries. The MPs, whose names have been mentioned here, have not received even minor injuries. I challenge the Members who raised this issue. I will resign my membership from this House and publicly apologise if there is a minor injury on the bodies of these Members. Sir, nothing as they have said had happened. They are holding the country to ransom. They have declared a *bandh* in Kerala even after announcing a judicial inquiry, lakhs of Ayyappa devotees going to Sabarimala are on the streets. Without even giving a notice, they have declared the *bandh*. This is misuse of the privilege of Members of Parliament. So, kindly advise them to restrain themselves, from this negative politics. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is you who have to give your ruling in regard to the breach of privilege. I am simply supporting the views expressed by Atal ji in this regard. I say so because you are the custodian of our rights. The hon. Members, Shrimati Suseela Gopalan on whose behalf the senior Members of this House are raising this issue before you was assaulted by the police. I would like to request to delink this issue from the judicial inquiry ordered by the State Government. Whatever they are doing is also right. Since this issue has been brought before you by the hon.

Member who was assaulted by the police and you are the custodian of our rights, it is your responsibility to give your ruling. Through you, I would like to request the hon. Home Minister, Shri Chavan to look into the matter.

[English]

He should be willing to hold a judicial inquiry regarding the assault on Shrimati Suseela Gopalan and others.

[Translation]

In view of the demand for suspending the guilty police officers being made from all sections of the House, I would request the hon. Home Minister through you to speak to Shri Karuna-karan, the Chief Minister of the State because law and order is a state subject. I think Shri Karunakaran will agree to suspend the concerned police officers for assaulting Shrimati suseela Gopalan. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with what all the hon. Members have said in this House. I assure them all that proper action would be taken in this regard if any such thing has happened against the hon. Member. Right now, it is the Question Hour. Had this issue been raised even after the Question Hour, my reply would have been the same. Question Hour is meant for the Members and it is upto you how best to utilize it. This is wastage of your time, not of the Government. So I would like to take up this issue after the Question Hour is over.

In this regard, first of all I would like to request the Government to make the facts available to me as soon as possible. And the Privilege Motion as well as the statement of the concerned hon. member when she turns up here also will be taken into account. After that I will seek informations from the state Government also. Keeping all these things in view, proper action will certainly be taken.

11.14 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Privatisation of Power Projects

*242. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:
SHRI RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received applications from private parties/institutions for setting up power projects;

(b) if so, the number of such applications statewide, pending with the Union Government;

(c) the names of the power projects proposed to be handed over to private parties/institutions; and

(d) the details of terms and conditions finalised in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). 8 proposals for power projects in private sector aggregating to a total capacity of 2142 MW are pending with the Union Government.

(c) State Governments have issued clearance under Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, on the feasibility reports submitted by the agencies concerned for the following projects to be implemented by the private enterprises;