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Title: Alleged arrests of DMK MLAs during midnight in Tamil Nadu in violation of Supreme Court's directions.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE): Sir, in Chennai, Queen Mary Women College is a famous girls' college which is a monument of great architecture. The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to demolish that building. All the girl students of that college have resorted to strike. They are on strike even in the night. The students are not permitted to enter the classrooms. The High Court has also passed a stay order not to demolish that collegeâ€¦  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a State subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : No, Sir, it is not a State subject. The students of the college are not permitted to enter the classrooms.â€¦ (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete. Let me know what he has to say. I am not permitting him to raise other matters excepting the attack on the MP. I would like to know about the MP who was arrested.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : Sir, it is a 150 years old women college and is a famous monument of great architecture. It is a symbol of women education in Chennai. The AIADMK Government has decided to demolish that building. All the women students are agitating outside the college building. All the Opposition Party Leaders have given moral support to the students.

MR. SPEAKER: Such issues can be raised in the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : Sir, the students are not being allowed to go to the classes...(Interruptions).

Yesterday mid-night, our Youth Wing Leader, Shri M.K. Stalin was arrested without any reasonable ground...(Interruptions). All the Opposition MLAs were also arrested without any reason. We want to give moral support to the students as well as to our Youth Wing Leader, Shri M.K. Stalin. The Police forces broke open the doors and trespassed the residence of Shri Stalin and arrested him in the mid-night. Our Member of Parliament, Shri Vetrivelan was also arrested...(Interruptions). Madam Sonia, your MLAs have also been arrested...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit Dr. V. Saroja to speak. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): My submission is exactly on the same subject...(Interruptions).

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Sir, all the Opposition MLAs belonging to Congress Party, CPI, CPI(M), and DMK have been arrestedâ€¦ (Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (SALEM): Sir, they cannot raise this matter here...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have been good Members of this House. You have raised the issue. The notice has been taken by the concerned Minister. The Minister can consider whether the report of the Tamil Nadu Government should be asked for. Let me tell you that the normal procedure has been that we do not permit the State subjects to be raised here. But since, as you have mentioned to me that all the Opposition MLAs of the Assembly have been arrested, I allowed you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me complete. Over and above, you have also mentioned that a Member of Parliament has also been arrested. Therefore, if the Government thinks proper, it can always ask for the report on the incident. After the report comes from the State Government, then only the matter can be decided.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is speaking on the same issue. I am going to allow Dr. V. Saroja also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission. This is not an ordinary matter. If the building is 150 years old...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, it is not 150 years old! (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Shri Chandra Shekhar to speak. Dr. V. Saroja will also be allowed to speak. If any submission is not acceptable to you, you can refute it. But you can do it after his statement.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if this building is 150 years old, it is the responsibility of the Government of India and this Parliament to protect that building. I do not know about the other matter. On that matter, there may be controversy. Sir, but on this issue, I would very humbly disagree with you that this is a matter which cannot be raised here...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, this building is not a archaeological building...(Interruptions). There is no violation.

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to permit her. She can refute this charge.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to bring to the attention of this House the assassination of the democracy that is taking place in Tamil Nadu. Every single MLA of the Congress Legislature Party in Tamil Nadu has been arrested....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Saroja will be allowed to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, they have the right to speak when they are called!...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After his remarks are over, I will immediately allow Dr. Saroja to speak.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Every single Member of the Congress Legislature Party in Tamil Nadu, each one of whom who has been elected in exactly the same way as the Members of the ruling party, has been arrested. What for? It is for sitting in *dharna*. It is part of our Constitution and a fundamental right to express ourselves. In view of this violation of the Constitution, it is the duty of the Government of India to protect the Constitution when it is being violated in a State!...(Interruptions) We should call for a statement from the Government of India regarding the assassination of democracy and violation of the Constitution there!...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, Shri P. Mohan is also from Tamil Nadu. Please allow him to speak, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: After Dr. Saroja speaks, I would allow him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow more Members to speak on this issue. I will allow him after she completes. Let her complete.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said on the issue. We are very much concerned about it. We do not know whether this is a democratic or an autocratic country. We associate with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member!...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : You break the law and you will be spared! ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the statement of the leader come on record.

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Sir, a case has been registered in Marina Police Station No. 5, Chennai under Sections 143, 148 and 506/2!...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted her to speak and she should speak now. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may not agree with her. But she has her point of view and she is allowed to speak. She has every right to express her views. We are in a democratic country. You must have patience to listen to her also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask the Minister to say something on this issue if at all he wants to say something on this.

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, let me speakâ€¦...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: May I request the Members of her Party not to disturb her when she is speaking? I want her speech also to be brought on record. Please co-operate and let her complete.

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, Shri Stalin alongwith four other MLAs from Chennai were arrested on the midnight of 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2003 based on the complaint received by the Marina Police Stationâ€¦...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Who had made the complaint?.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot ask such questions.

DR. V. SAROJA : Please hear me. Why are you in a hurry? They have been arrested based on the complaint made by the Principal of the Queen Mary's College, Chennaiâ€¦...(Interruptions) Please let me speak. Sir, I must be heard.

MR. SPEAKER: You go on speaking and complete your statement.

DR. V. SAROJA : Shri Stalin and other MLAs had gatecrashed, entered the premises of the Women's College threatening the watchman, and disturbing the girl students thus preventing them from preparing for their examinations. At the same time, they have instigated the girl students of that College to take part in the agitation and not allowing them to take up their examinations. Based on the complaint made by the Principal, they have been arrested. This complaint has been informed to the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and under the directions of the hon. Speaker of the Assembly, they have been arrestedâ€¦...(Interruptions) Sir, they have not only trespassed the premises of a Women's College by gatecrashing but also disturbed and instigated the girl students there to take part in the agitation and demonstrationâ€¦...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is regarding imposition of VAT.

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, it is a State subject which cannot be discussed on the floor of this House. On the complaint of trespassing and gatecrashing the Women's College, the MLAs have been arrested. The arrest has been justifiedâ€¦...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Since the last four days, Shri Mistry has been trying to bring up his issue before me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After Shri Mistry completes, I will take up the issue of potatoes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Sir, I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion on atrocities of police. I have given two notices, one for an important matter to be raised in the `Zero Hour` and the other is on Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received that notice. I have not allowed the notice on Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

\*SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House on the brutal attack on democracy in Tamil Nadu. In the midnight of yesterday Mr.Mu.Ka.Stalin, a popular leader of Tamil

Nadu in the political arena has been arrested without any valid reason along with Shri Vetri Selvam, a Member of Parliament who belongs to this House. The charge against them is that they went to Queen Mary's College, one of the oldest educational institutions in Chennai the capital of Tamil Nadu in support of students who have resorted to peaceful agitation within the campus for the past one week. All the students and staff members including the erstwhile Principal of the College oppose the move of the Tamil Nadu Government to demolish this old building which could be a national monument. Just two days back they replaced the dissenting Principal with a new Principal on whose false allegations arrests are being made there when they have not really trespassed but they were there only to express their support in a democratic manner. All the elected representatives of parties like CPI(M), DMK, PMK, Congress have all been arrested on false charges thwarting democracy.

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, the College building is 150 years old and is in a dilapidated condition. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a decision to construct a new building for the College thereâ€¦*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing more should go on record.

*(Interruptions) â€¦\**

MR. SPEAKER: No other Member, other than Shri Mistry, will be taken on record. Nothing more than this will be taken on record.

*(Interruptions) â€¦\**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Where is Shri Pandiyan?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am not taking your remarks on record.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Saroja, I have taken your statement on record.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mistry wants to raise an important issue. The issue relating to Tamil Nadu is not the only issue which can be discussed here. There are a number of other issues also to be discussed.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, what has happened to you? What is wrong with you? He can always come and make you sit. Shri Pandian is not here. Now, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi will have to do that.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): He is worried about Shri Pandian. What has happened to Shri Pandian? He is not seen here. â€¦ *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian is safe and sound. Please sit down. Nothing has happened to him.

*...(Interruptions)*

\* Not Recorded