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Title: Regarding alleged lathi charge by Police against the people participating in protest march in West Bengal.

*SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to speak in Bengali. Sir the State of West Bengal was once the symbol of culture and was well known for its civility. But today there is rampant corruption as well as terrorist activities. All sorts of immoral acts are going on in the state. Women are not safe. They are being raped, tortured, harassed. It is all the more unfortunate because the Chief Minister of West Bengal is herself a woman. She should have been the custodian of the dignity of women of her state. But on the contrary crime graph is rising, corruption is raising its ugly head during her regime. In order to protest against such atrocities, BJP partymen have started a civil disobedience movement. Yesterday our General Secretary Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya, Shri Suresh Pujari and our State President Dilip Ghosh were protesting against the Government in Nadia, Krishnanagar when the police resorted to lathi charge. They wanted to present a memorandum to the district officials but were stopped and beaten. They were arrested and put behind bars. In Barasat, Sidhartha Nath Singh was leading a protest march from Rathtala and was trying to reach Kachhari Maidan, when once again there was lathicharge. We feared that there would be loss of lives, people could be injured fatally. My point is that this august House should condemn the barbaric acts in one voice and thwart any attempt to stifle the voice of democracy. This House, must condemn the incident that took place in West Bengal.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Law and order is a State subject. Whatever you have said regarding women will only go on record; others will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Nishikant Dubey, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): I am grateful, Sir.

It is a question of democratic atmosphere which is being challenged. It is not a question of any State matter. It is a question of democratic rights of people and every political party and association. It is a Constitutional right. ...(Interruptions) In West Bengal, this is being trampled everyday. Unfortunately, no person has the right to raise his voice in West Bengal. ...(Interruptions) Such a political injustice is going on in West Bengal. Even our party people are everyday becoming victims. ...(Interruptions)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mohammad Salim.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir, it is not unusual. When certain issues happen across the country, they get raised in Parliament. ...(Interruptions)

Some incidents have happened in West Bengal where there has been a *lathi* charge. I said, of course, it is a State subject but what Shri Ahluwalia is raising is an issue of our fundamental right of freedom to speak. ...(Interruptions) Our freedom to protest is impinged. I think, Parliament has every right when individual freedom is being curtailed, when the right to protest is being thwarted. Parliament has a right to discuss because it is a constitutional matter; it is not a matter of the State. ...(Interruptions)

14.00 hours

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, all I want to say that Shri Ahluwalia may be aggrieved, as he alleges certain police action took place against the processionists of his Party. He has raised the matter here. But, Sir, please understand there are 29 States in this country and such actions take place all the time. So, if anywhere some agitation takes place is Parliament the proper venue to raise it? Law and order is an entirely State subject. Police action is an entirely State subject. Why should you allow such matters as lathi charge to be raised in this House?...(Interruptions) Sir, you should not allow this to be raised in the House....(Interruptions)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Saugata Roy, I have already responded that law and order being State subject cannot go on record. Whatever the hon. Member has said about women right will go on record. I have already said that.