

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The Motion was Adopted.

14.32 hrs.

STATEMENT RE:ARREST OF SOME WOMEN AND INJURIES TO ONE DURING WOMEN'S DEMONSTRATION ON 26.8.1987 AGAINST RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I wish to share some information with the honourable House, pursuant to the request made yesterday regarding a Morcha which took place yesterday at about 1100 hours. According to the information available with me, there were about 700 women participants from various women's organisations. They took out a procession along Jai Singh Road. Police cordons had been placed on Ashok Road just before Patel Chowk. CRPF lady police and lady police from the Delhi Police had been deployed. The demonstrators attempted to break the police cordon and march towards Parliament House. However, since prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr. P.C. were in force in that area the Police had to arrest them and take them to the Mandir Marg Police Station. While attempting to break the cordon and while being arrested a number of participants resisted the police personnel.

According to my information, one demonstrator received injuries and was dis-

charged after first aid. I may also inform the House that a lady Sub-Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors of Parliament Street Police Station and 14 other lady police officers suffered minor injuries.

Two hundred and eighty-four demonstrators were arrested under section 188 IPC for violation of prohibitory orders. Later on they were let off by the Court after an admonition. Three hundred and fifteen demonstrators were detained under the Delhi Police Act they were released after a short while.

I would like to assure the hon. Members that the Government is keeping a close watch regarding the prices of essential commodities and will take every possible step to keep the prices in check.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): He says that only one lady was injured. Let me tell you.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): That is not a fact. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Yesterday, one lady Shanti Devi was injured and the stitches had to be made on her head. Our leading functionary National Federation of Indian Railways....

*(Interruptions)***

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not allowed. We will go to the next item. Please resume your seat.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. CHAIRMAN: I call Mr. Janardhana Poojary and Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari to move that the Bill to provide for the levy of a tax expenditure incurred in certain hotels to be taken into consideration.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. CHAIRMAN: I heard you. Please

take your seat. I have been hearing. This will not go into the record.

*(Interruptions)***

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Please have some compassion for women.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. I have some compassion. Why do you say that I do not have compassion?

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Because they are violating Section 144, why should they be lathi charged?

(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN: I have heard enough of it. I have called upon the Minister to move the Bill. The Bill is under consideration. I have called the next item in the Agenda.

(Interruptions)

PROF.MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Have you seen the photographs of the lady?

MR.CHAIRMAN: I have heard from Mrs. Dandavate yesterday.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): This is a deliberate attempt to satisfy.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Are you satisfied with the statement?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot say whether I am satisfied or not.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Since you have seen the photographs, have you seen the lathis being hurled on the head of the ladies? The photographs are there. They are caught red handed in the photographs. Unfortunately, our scientific development is such that photographs can be taken. Those photographs have appeared in the front page of the newspapers. There is not even a mention of the lathi charge in the statement. He has not even made a single reference to the lathi charge in the statement.

(Interruptions)

MR.CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow a discussion on this. I understood what you have said. I have called the next item in the Agenda. Why don't cooperate with me. The Minister has heard you patiently. Whatever you have said, he has heard. I cannot compel him now. You have told whatever you have wanted to say. He has already shared the information. I have called the next item in the Agenda. Please cooperate with me.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please resume your seats because I have passed on to the next item?

(Interruptions)

MR.CHAIRMAN: He has not made the statement. That is what I am telling. He has only shared the information.

PROF.MADHU DANDAVATE: I want a clarification from the Minister. Was the lathi charge resorted to or not? There are a number of photographs in which the ladies are being hit with lathis and in some of the

14.43.hrs

cases, their sarees are being pulled. Photographs have appeared. He has not even had the courtesy of admitting that the police resorted to lathi charge. We expected regrets to be expressed.....(*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN : I have called the next time. Please resume your seats. I have heard you. Please resume your seats.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Have the people of this country got the right to court arrest peacefully or not? Because in the days to come if the price situation becomes the worst there will be many such demonstrations and the house-wives are the worst affected as that is affecting their family budget. The people will go in the streets to court arrest peacefully. Are they going to be beaten up and their skull going to be broken and the sarees to be stripped....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): They were molested there openly.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him say what he is going to say. Why do you not sit? (*Interruptions*) I have heard you patiently. Let him say what he is going to say. I cannot compel him(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA Are you satisfied with the statement, Madam?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to say anything. I cannot give my reaction at this stage. Do not question me.... (*Interruptions*) This is enough. I cannot compel him. Please resume your seats. I have called the next item....(*Interruptions*)

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: Since we are not satisfied with the statement, we are walking out in protest.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We are walking out
{At this stage, Prof. Madhu Dandavate and some other hon. Members left the House}

EXPENDITURE TAX BILL

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the levy of a tax on expenditure incurred in certain hotels be taken into consideration."

The Prime Minister in his Budget speech for 1987-88 had made an announcement that a separate legislation would be brought forward for levy of a tax on expenditure in certain hotels. I shall avail of this opportunity to explain the main provision of the Bill.

This short and simple Bill has the object of imposing a tax on expenditure incurred in certain hotels at the rate of 10 per cent. The tax shall be levied on any chargeable expenditure incurred in a hotel wherein the room charges for a unit of residential accommodation at the time of incurring such expenditure are Rs. 400 or more per day per individual. The expression 'chargeable expenditure' means expenditure incurred in respect of any accommodation or in connection with the provision of food or drink or any other services by way of beauty parlours, health clubs, swimming pools or other similar services. The levy will not apply to payments made in foreign exchange. This exemption will also extend to payments made in Indian currency which is obtained by conversion of foreign exchange into Indian currency by specified modes.

Person responsible for collecting the expenditure tax will be the hotel receiving such payments. The tax so collected during any calendar month will have to be credited to the Central Government by the 10th day of the immediately following calendar month. It will also be the responsibility of the hotel to furnish a return dis-