

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The Tamil Nadu Government is behaving in an autocratic manner...(Interruptions)...It is unfortunate that democracy is being buried in Tamil Nadu. They don't have any respect for peaceful people...(Interruptions)...Democracy has been subverted in Tamil Nadu. It is very undemocratic. When a peaceful bandh was called, the Tamil Nadu Government could not have arrested its leaders, it is undemocratic...(Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, the charges levelled against our Chief Minister are mere allegations. It is most undemocratic. No charge has been proved against the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. Then, why should she resign? Because they are in power at the Central level, they cannot intimidate the State Governments.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You have put everybody behind the bars, including the legislators. We will not allow it to continue.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Even if you dismiss the Government, we will come back to power...(Interruptions)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. (Interruptions)...

I wanted to run the House in proper order. I was planning to dispense with the lunch hour to see to it that everybody, who wanted to speak on the subject, gets a chance. Unfortunately, you people do not want to speak in proper order and you just get up and speak—Why should I cooperate now?

So, I adjourn the House for lunch. At 2.30, we will discuss the railways. After that, in the evening you sit and discuss it.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at totally three minutes past two of the clock,

The Vice-Chairman (Miss Saroj Khaparde) in the Chair.

RE: INFRINGEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN TAMIL NADU

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now, we will take up the Zero Hour Submissions. Shri Virumbi.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Madam, Vice-Chairman...(Interruptions)...

श्री संघ द्विव नीलमः जीवो अन्तर बर्षे, रेल बन्ध नहीं लेना है? ... (अवधान)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam has given the permission... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Sec, there is fist before me.

श्री संघ द्विव नीलमः अन्तराष्ट्रीय मन्त्रालय जब नहीं ले नहीं करता तो सरकार करके तो उन्होंने यह बोलना की थी कि संघ के बन्ध रेल बन्ध शुरू होगा। तो जीवो अन्तर।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: (Tamil Nadu): Gautamji, Najmaji has given like permission...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Najmaji, has given the permission...(Interruptions)...

अन्तराष्ट्रीय (मुम्बई एरियन हब्स): मुझे किसी केकरीन ने कहा है कि अभी भी जीवो अन्तर बंदीन् है, तीन बजे के करीब अन्तर रेल बन्ध शुरू होगा।

Now I would like to call Mr. Virumbi.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, Vice-chairman, I am going to raise an important and urgent issue. Madam, you know that the Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu have called for a *bandh* for obvious reasons. Madam, so far more than one lakh people have been arrested. The *bandh* is going on since morning, but still the arrests are going on. Madam, the jails are overflowing. The community halls and the marriage halls are forcibly taken over by the Police

Department end converted into jails. At Tiruchi, the capacity is only for 2,000 people but 7,000 people have been kept inside. Actually, tension is prevailing in Tiruchi jail. Basic facilities are not at all provided. Practically, a conflict is going on between the jail officials- and the police officiate about taking in prisoners who are already remanded by the Judicial Department because there is no space at all. Now, more than 1,40,000 people have been arrested. I would quote a few examples of how harassment is going on. two DMK youths arrested two days ago at Madras have been stripped and kept in the police station for more than 14 hours. They kept the youth naked in the Madras Police Station itself. Even the MLAs are not spared. The former Minister, Shri Sundaram, was arrested. They arrested Paruthi Ilamvazhuthi. They arrested our own colleague, Shri Mohammed Saqy. MLAs, former Minister and everybody, are arrested(Interruptions)...Madam, this is the situation. Some buses were actually filled by the AIADMK cadres ...(Interruptions)...and after that...(Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I want time, Madam...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Swaminathan, did you ask for my permission? Have I given you permission? ..., (interruptions)...
Mr. Virumbi is speaking, let him complete his statement and whatever you want, we will see later (Interruptions)...

SHRI O. SWAMINATHAN: (Tamil Nadu) Will you give me permission, Madam?(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Your name is not there. You are not there in the list (Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I have told the Deputy Chairman, and the Deputy Chairman told me in her Chamber that she would allow me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Let him complete(Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: That is what I want to tell you. madam, you are not permitting me. Then, how can we reply?(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): This is not the way(Interruptions)...

This is not the way....(Interruptions)...
I have called Mr. Virumbi(Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Unless you give us a chance, how can we permit him? He is going on speaking against (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): This is not fair. (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: The issue was hijacked(Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: You are not permitting us. You allow me, Madam ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: When a Member is speaking why are you preventing him?(Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I am not preventing him. I have only asked the Chair to please give permission to me to speak; otherwise the discussion will become incomplete. You should allow me in a democratic way(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Swaminathan, please sit down. Let Mr. Virumbi speak now (Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Are you going to allow me or not?(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I cannot say mat. Let me finish now. At three O'clock I have to take up the Railway Budget. By

that time everything should be over.
....(Interruptions)... Let Mr. Virumbi complete.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: How can I sit down? Madam, the Deputy Chairman told from the Chair that at 2.30, the Budget will be taken up. Now you have changed the ruling of the Deputy Chairman!(Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Swaminathan, I have not changed any ruling given by the Deputy Chairman ... (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: The Deputy Chairman permitted him(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): There is no mention of your name here in the list.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Please ask the Deputy Chairman.....(Interruptions) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): How can I go and ask the Deputy Chairman? You can go and ask her (Interruptions)..

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: How are we take the promise of the Presiding Officer then?(interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): This is not fair.(Interruptions)... You do not allow others to speak? Mr. Virumbi, please carry on.(Interruptions)...

SHRI G SWAMINATHAN: They are talking of democracy and you do not allow us to speak(Interruptions)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, Madam.....(Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: It is not fair. You give me the democratic right to say(Interruptions)... They are talking about Tamil Nadu being(Interruptions) ...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You

do not prevent the other Members
....(Interruptions)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBAL: Some buses filled by the AIMMK cadres and the anti-social elements (Interruptions)... and also the police confiscated.(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Swaminathan, please take your seat.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, the Deputy Chairman said that and Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta was also there.
.... (Interruptions)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBAL: Railway Deptt, has not announced to stop the rails Madam, there is tension in and around the railway stations in Tamil Nadu(Interruptions)... Madam, it is the height of harassment. There is tension in the districts of Madras, Coimbatore, Tiruchind in many other district headquarters (Interruptions)... The people who have been arrested there are kept in the bus itself as there is no space ... (Interruptions)... and the other people, Madam.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: This is the affair of the Tamil Nadu Government. It cannot be allowed here(Interruptions) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Swaminathan, You are not respecting the Chair, I say, please sit down,

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: What do you want me to do?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You sit down, please.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: You can do whatever you like....(Interruptions)...

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Madam, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that there is not Cabinet Minister(Interruptions) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Two Ministers are there(Interruptions)... There are three Ministers.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: In 1973, we had passed a law....(Interruptions)... under which any person indulging in(Interruptions)... Chairman or Vice-Chairman, Minister, including the Chief Minister, heads of the Corporations can be prosecuted(Interruptions). Everybody can be prosecuted. This law was passed when the DMK was there in power and Dr. Kalaignar was the Chief Minister.....(Interruptions)... In 1977, it was repealed. Now, regarding the arrest, I tell you, Madam, that in last September, when Mr. Arcotveeraswamy filed a writ petition against the arrest warrant, the High court itself gave a verdict and I would like to quote only the operative part of it only in one sentence: "It is expected that innocent persons are not arrested merely because they belong to a particular political party or a group. No person will be arrested unless it is really required to maintain the law and order in the public interest." The people in Tamil Nadu are being arrested without any reason. The harassment is going on. Nobody has been left(Interruptions)... Even the MLAs are being attacked.(Interruptions)... The Governor was attacked. The Minister of the ruling party was attacked at Tiruchi Airport(Interruptions)... Hon. Shri Arunachalam is here, he knows(Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: How can we discuss the law and order situation of a State;(Interruptions)...

SMT. JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Matters relating to law and order can be raised.....(Interruptions)... Madam, there is a reign of terror in Tamil Nadu. There is no protection even to the MLAs.(Interruptions)... They are harassing everybody.....(Interruptions)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, If a free and fair trial has to be

conducted(Interruptions)... Madam, free and fair trial cannot be conducted unless the Chief Minister resigns(Interruptions)... Free and fair trial cannot be conducted at the present moment. Therefore, I would request through you, Madam, that at least whatever action with your power you can take,(Interruptions)... take action according to the law of the land and ensure that peace prevails in Tamil Nadu and that justice is done(Interruptions)...

otherwise people will come to streets and they will fight till such time that the Chief Minister is brought down. With these words, Madam, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: You are not allowing me to respond. On behalf of AIADMK I want to say something.(Interruptions)... You are not allowing my point of view. It is very undemocratic. You do whatever you like. It is crushing of democracy.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I am not doing whatever I like.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: This is a drama.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I am presiding here and before me there is a list of Members and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman have given permission. I am calling only their names. Your name is not there. I am not calling your name because your name is not there. You should not react like that. You should appreciate it. Please sit down.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Let him speak when his turn comes.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN (Tamil Nadu) Madam, he has been permitted, he may be allowed to speak.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: They are telling him to speak. He is being denied.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKAT-

RAMAN: Not denying. I am supporting.

श्री संप्र प्रिय गौरव: मैडम, इनकी पार्टी की सरकार है, इनको बोलने का समय दिया जाए। ... (व्यवधान)।
The Chair should be given a chance to speak.

THE TINDIVANAM G. VENKAT-RAMAN: Madam Vice-Chairman, we have been discussing law and order for the last two days. Now, exactly what is happening is, the entire opposition parties have called for a bandh. I will state the simple fact. They have called for a bandh on 4th, including the Congress Party. Now, democratically, they want to show their criticism against the present Chief Minister. And they want to have a bandh.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: You are not allowing me to speak. Then there is no point in sitting here. I want to know whether you are going to allow me to speak.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKAT-RAMAN: She will allow you.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: No, no you cannot say that. Let her say that. Otherwise, why should I be here?

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKAT-RAMAN: She will allow you.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: No, no, you cannot say that. Let her say that. If you are allowing me, then I will sit here. Otherwise where is the point in sitting here,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): In my list your name is not there. So, there is no question of allowing you.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sorry, Madam, we are walking out in protest against the fact that we are not allowed to speak. We are being attacked in this House; in the Rajya Sabha we are discussing this matter without law and order. You are not allowing the leader of a party. There is a total crushing of democracy in this House (Interruptions). (At

this stage the hoe. Member left the Chamber).

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKAT-RAMAN: And so only the bandh was called. As a preventive measure they have arrested all the leaders of the Opposition, irrespective of the party; they have arrested the party volunteers numbering about one lakh. There is no place at all in the prisons. And that is how it is going on. Not only that; they are emboldened by their Chief Minister who calls the Prime Minister (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Kamlaji I never said that I won't allow them,

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I want to place it on record that nobody prevented Mr. Swaminathan from speaking. In fact, we want to hear why their Government is behaving in an undemocratic way. Madam, all that was said was, let those who have given their names first be allowed to speak. And then he can speak. Madam, in fact, that is what you said. In spite of that Mr. Swaminathan has walked out. I just want to place that on record.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I never said that I won't allow them. But first I have to finish the list before me. After that I would have allowed them to speak but they are not in a position to listen to anything. And they are asking me to do whatever I like. This is not the way. You cannot disobey the Chair.

डा० बापू कालवदाले: मैडम, आपको इनको इजाजत देने चाहिए थी।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्दे): मैंने इजाजत देने के लिए नाम नहीं किया। ... (व्यवधान) देखिए मेरे सामने जो लिस्ट है ... (व्यवधान) ... आप मेरी बात सुनेंगे? मैंने इसमें ही कहा कि मेरे सामने बिल्कुल नाम की लिस्ट है, उन लोगों को पहले बुलाऊंगा 3.00 बजे से पहले अगर यह काम होता है तो I would have given them a chance. There is no hard and fast rule. They are not

allowing others to speak. How can I allow them?(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: He should have given his name first why did he not give his name?

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Actually, under the pretext of preventive arrest, lakhs of people have been arrested and there is no room in the cells at all. Not only that we have got a Chief Minister in Tamil Nadu who says we have got a Prime Minister who is an inert Prime Minister, most demeaning and damaging to the country as such.

This is most demeaning and damaging to the country as such. We have the SAARC Conference which is going on here. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is making a reference in the Tamil Nadu Assembly by calling the Prime Minister 'inert'. This is the most painful thing. We should hang our heads in shame. The Chief Minister of a State is calling the Prime Minister 'inert' when he is alert. Therefore, this is a serious situation. She thinks that she is the supreme power. She should be made to realise. Democracy is more powerful than all these things. The people's power is supreme. This has to be decided by their vote. Therefore, Madam, it is high time the Central Government appointed a special judge and the Chief Minister must be called upon to answer the corruption charges levelled against her.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, ... (Interruptions),

DR. BAPU KALDATE (Maharashtra): Madam, you said that you would call only those persons whose names were in the list. Therefore, kindly call those Members whose names are there. If the names are not there, don't call them. (Interruptions).

जिनके नाम नहीं हैं, उनको इजाजत नहीं दी जाए!... (व्यवधान) अगर नाम नहीं हैं तो इनको अनुमति मत दी जाए!... (व्यवधान).. अगर नाम नहीं है तो इनको अनुमति मत दी जाए मैं आपको कह रहा हूँ। ... (व्यवधान) ...

The other hon. Member, Mr. Swaminathan, was also requesting for a long time, but you did not call him.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापड़ें): मैं किसी को स्पेशल परमिशन नहीं दी है। लेकिन उन्होंने रिक्वेस्ट की ... (व्यवधान)

डा० बापू कालदत्ते: मैडम, जिनके नाम नहीं हैं, उनके अनुमति मत दी जाए ... (व्यवधान)

Don't call those Members whose names are not there in the list. Don't create a wrong precedent. (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, kindly permit me to say a word. This is an issue concerning my State.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, Vice-Chairman, on this issue which has been raised by Mr. Viduthalai Virumbi, I would like to say that a *bandh* has been called in Tamil Nadu today. The call for this *bandh* has been given by all the political parties in Tamil Nadu. Madam, all the political leaders in Tamil Nadu have been indiscriminately arrested. There is no provocation. The only thing we want is that democracy should prevail in Tamil Nadu. There was an order passed by the Governor. The Governor gave sanction for prosecution of the Chief Minister. The State Government went to the court. The Chief Minister went to the court. The High Court dismissed her petition. The leaders of all the political parties wanted her to step down because of the charges of corruption levelled against her and in respect of which the Governor gave the sanction for prosecution. In that context, this *bandh* was called all over the State. Unfortunately, the State Government acted in such a manner as to take revenge against the leaders of the various political parties. They were indiscriminately arrested. They were detained at various places. The *bandh* is for the protection of democratic rights. This is being met with this sort of undemocratic and autocratic at-

titude on the part of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. This is the basic charge against the Chief Minister.

Apart from this, Madam, when sanction has been given for her prosecution, the Chief Minister is still clinging to power; she is not resigning. This is the demand of the leaders of all the other political parties in Tamil Nadu. It is high time the Central Government intervened in this matter. The Chief Minister is making derogatory remarks against the Prime Minister. I would say that there is no law and order in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I am on a point of order. (*Interruption!*).

This is a State issue. The Chief Minister is not here to defend herself. There is nobody here to defend her case. (*Interruptions*) You did not give permission to Mr. Swaminathan to speak. That is why he walked out. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: This is the Council of States. We can raise the issue here. (*Interruptions* I have got the right to raise the issue here. (*Interruptions*))

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: It is not correct. This is a State issue. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: This is a political issue. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Madam, you cannot allow this thing. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I would request the hon. Home Minister. He is looking after the law and order problem. He should get a report from the State Government and come before the Houses with a statement. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Narayanasamy, you said that you would like to associate yourself with it and I gave you permission. It does not mean that you can go on speaking.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am going to conclude, Madam. The Home Minister should come forward with a statement on this issue, on this indiscriminate arrest of political leaders in Tamil Nadu. Also, the Central Government should intervene to check the autocratic attitude of the Chief Minister. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I would like to say a word on this. Please permit me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Just a minute, please. I have the names of Mr. Swaminathan and Mr. Swell. They have been permitted by the Chairman. Mr. Swaminathan is not here now. Mr. Swell is there. I would like to call him. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, kindly permit me. I belong to the State of Tamil Nadu. (*Interruptions*). This is not fair. You gave me permission, but I am being stopped. Madam, I want to raise this very important issue. A peaceful, democratic *bandh* was called by all the Opposition parties in the State.

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Meghalaya): What is going on? I just want to speak one sentence.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, there is absolutely no protection whatsoever.

SHRI G.G. SWELL: Two persons cannot be speaking together.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: There is no protection for the MLAs. There is no protection to women.

SHRI G.G. SWELL: I cannot be competing with the hon. lady.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: There is no protection to officers. There is no protection to anybody in the State who raises the least voice of dissent.

Yesterday and the day before one lakh people have been arrested and the jails are all overerowed just because they asked people to protest peaceful- and to ask the Chief Minister to resign in view of the High Court judgement and the Governor's sanction. All democratic methods have been replaced by the reign of terror in the State. There is no protection for anybody who raises a voice of dissent. All our leaders have been arrested. They are being humiliated. They are being punished. They have been put in jails with the most inhuman treatment.

The Home Minister should come forward with a statement on this. He should tell us what is actually happening, whether there is a government and whether there is democracy still alive in Tamil Nadu.

Thank You

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Madam, a *bandh* is not a new thing to this country or to the State. I will be very brief.

It is an expression of people's anger and resentment. Tamil Nadu is observing a *bandh* because of alleged corrupt practices and the prosecution order against the Chief Minister. I do not want to go into the merits into details, but that is the reason. There is consolidated and concerted effort of the people to express resentment. What has happened? The main concern is about the violation of human rights in the State where thousands and thousands of people have been confined—the latest report is 50,000 people—not to jails because there is no space in the jails, but to kalyanamandapams, schools and other places. Virtually, the whole State has been converted into a jail. It means that oppression, repression and everything else have been unleashed by the Government in power. I do not mention anybody. I am sorry to say that there should be some etiquette and some kind of decency in our approach and in our utterances. Unfortunately, the legislative

forum is being misused to abuse the Prime Minister by name. Such a bad situation has never happened in this country so far. People went in for an agitation. It is a democratic expression. That is being suppressed, and democracy is being buthered in the State of Tamil Nadu. The people are feeling under the pressure of administration's brutality.

Madam, I conclude with a sentence. The tyranny of the brutal majority and the arrogance of power are throttling democracy in Tamil Nadu. It is necessary for this Government and the people of this country to look into this and to protect democracy to protect the rights of the people including the right of the people to dissent and agitate. It cannot be suppressed by the Government with the brutal force of police. The people should resent and defeat these anti-democratic forces,

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I have got only two points to make, and I will finish within five minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Swaminathanji, I never told you that I would not give you permission. Your name was really not there in the list. Just a few seconds back I got the message. You got the permission from the Deputy Chairman.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Yes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): So, there is nothing against you from my side.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: No, no. Perhaps you were not aware of it because you said that you were not giving me permission.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Why should I not give you the permission?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Only two or three points because I should also speak because democracy means both sides.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Yes, certainly.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: They say that democracy is being suppressed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now you don't waste the time and go to the point, please.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: So, I am talking about democracy and democratic rights. I will cover two points. Then you can decide about it, and the House can decide about it.

One point that has been raised is regarding the *bandh* that has been organised in Tamil Nadu. Why the *bandh* has been organised is that they want the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to resign. Why they want the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to resign is that the Governor has given action for prosecuting her for alleged corruption. This is the case. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister feels that on a mere allegation she need not resign. Nothing has been proved against her so far. No Chief Minister has resigned on such an occasion.

Madam, to cite an examples, Mr. J.B. Patnaik of Orissa has been recently elected the Chief Minister of Orissa. Several cases are pending against him. Still, he has been allowed to take oath as the Chief Minister of Orissa. There have been complaints against other people also. Mr. Antulay also...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, two or three cases

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now you should talk about your own State. Okay?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, I am giving comparisons. You don't want me to compare these?

Mr. Antulay was prosecuted, but he was allowed to continue as Chief Minister. Later on, when the verdict came, he resigned.

In Punjab also, Mr. Kairon, during Nehru's period, continued as Chief Minister till the verdict came.... *(Interruptions)*

Congress MLAs were manhandled.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, Shri Narayanasamy told me outside the House, "I will beat you. Have you got a pillow on your back? I am going to beat you because you are a single man here." Madam, I am afraid, he can beat me because he is young man. However, I want to bring a privilege motion against him.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, he is a respected senior leader. Why should I say like that?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Many of the Members are witness to what he has said.

Madam, the point is we have a great respect for the Prime Minister. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu also has got a great respect for the Prime Minister.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam, it is the joke of the year.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, please allow me. After all, the Prime Minister is the Prime Minister for the whole country. ...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me. I will read out only one paragraph.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You have already spoken. I won't allow you to read out from the newspaper.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: She only said that the Prime Minister was a person who normally keenly...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It is very unfortunate on your part. You are defending your bad Chief Minister on the floor of this House.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: She is one of the best Chief Ministers who is

now ruling Tamil Nadu, She is one of the best Chief Ministers, Tamil Nadu had ever seen. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Swaminathan, you cannot read out from a newspaper here in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, they are taking away my time, what can I do? You give me my time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You have spoken whatever you wanted to speak. Now you want to read out from a newspaper!

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: We were under reign of terror during Karunanidhi's rule. Karunanidhi was a terror. He had imprisoned every AIADMK workers. It is very unfortunate that the Congress people are going slang with the DMK people. It is very unfortunate. The point is...*(Interruptions)*

3.00 P.M.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Kairon did not. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, I will read only what the High Court has said. This matter was raised by our own non. Chief Minister there in the High Court of Madras. The High Court has said: "Because this thing has been raised in the Court, a stay was not granted here". The High Court dismissed the maintainable writ petition filed by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister challenging the sanction accorded by the Governor. In that, the Divisional Bench of the High Court consisting of Mr. Srinivasan and Mr. Subramaniam said like this: "The fact that the Governor passed the order did not mean that it was satisfied that the charges made against the petitioner by Dr. Subramaniam Swaray have been proved." This is what the Court said. The Court has also said in regard to the charges made by Dr. Subramaniam

Swamy, that the Order did not cast any stigma...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Here the question is not about the "court order.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: This is about the arrest of more than one lakh political leaders, who have given a call for the *bandh*. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The *bandh* itself is for the Chief Minister to resign. I am only saying that no stigma has been attached by the Court. The Tamil Nadu High Court is not satisfied...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to speak. When I reply you do not want to listen to me. And then you accuse me. ...*(Interruptions)* You want to stop me when you find it is unpalatable to you. This is democracy!*(Interruptions)* .

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, he should speak on the arrest of one lakh persons there. We are not concerned about the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's explanation. He need not give it her

SHRI G. SWAMD JHAN: They are not allowing me to air.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): New, wind up within a minute as

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, "The Hindu" has also said...*(Interruptions)* The fact that the Governor had passed an Order, the Order did not imply that the charges levelled against Jayalalitha by Dr. Subramaniam Swamy have been proved. *(Interruptions)* The point I am trying to make is that it is only an allegation and nothing has been proved. *(Interruptions)*. Even in the Court nothing has been proved. So, on this basis they have no right to organise a *bandh* calling for her resignation. *(Interruptions)* She has been elected there

for five years. *(Interruptions)* Now, the Opposition party, the Congress (I) Party, in alliance with the DMK Party, has organised a *bandh* *(Interruptions)* Four years back, the AIADMK with Rajiv Ji had organised a *bandh*. All of us were put in the prisons. *(Interruptions)* I may tell you, Mr. Narayanasamy, that they had put all the Congress and the AIADMK people in prisons. That is one point. So, nothing has been proved.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You wind up now. I have to call others also.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The *bandh* has been organised. Now, they say that the Government is arresting. Who is to decide whether to arrest those people who want to paralyse the whole State? They want the *bandh* to be successful to prove that the whole State wants Jayalaitha to resign. My friends to the DMK and the Congress people are trying to paralyse the State. We have to defend the liberty and democracy of the people of Tamil Nadu and we cannot allow them... *(interruptions)*. It is the prerogative of the State Government to handle the situation there. Neither the Central Government, nor the Rajya Sabha can direct the State Government as to how to handle the situation. *(Interruptions)* Why are you getting agitated? The point is how to handle the law and order situation which is in the hands of the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Swaminathan, may I request you to conclude?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Kindly give me two minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I cannot give you two minutes. Please wind up in a minute. I have to call others also. You have to understand my position also.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Nelth the Central Government nor the Ra,

Sabha can ask the State Government as to how to handle a matter. That is beyond the purview of the Central Government and the Rajya Sabha. It is a matter of the State Government.

Madam, coming to the issue of Prime Minister, I would say that everybody has got respect for the Prime Minister. They make it appear as if the hon. Chief Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Congress MLAs were manhandled.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, Shri Narayanasamy told me outside the House, "I will beat you. Have you got a pillow on your back? I am going to beat you because you are a single man here." Madam, I am afraid, he can beat me because he is young man. However, I want to bring a privilege motion against him.

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SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It is very unfortunate on your part. You are defending your bad Chief Minister on the floor of this House.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: She is one of the best Chief Ministers who is now ruling Tamil Nadu. She is one of the best Chief Ministers, Tamil Nadu had ever seen. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Swaminathan, you cannot read out from a newspaper here in the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

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THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You have spoken whatever you wanted to speak. Now you want to read out from a newspaper!

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: We were under reign of terror during Karunanidhi's rule. Karunanidhi was a terror. He had imprisoned every AIADMK workers. It is very unfortunate that the Congress people are going along with the DMK people. It is very unfortunate. The point is...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, my respected colleague has said nice things about the Prime Minister but the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu will take action against him.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, she had a say. Please allow me to say a few words. When I am quoting from the newspaper she is afraid of it...*(Interruptions)*...They had their say... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, the same Chief Minister will take action against him for saying nice things about the Prime Minister. I am very sorry to say this.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Don't attribute motives... *(Interruptions)*...

Madam, please give me protection. She has only said that the Prime Minister was a person who normally keenly watches the activities taking place everywhere and he took necessary steps but in Tamil Nadu the situation had arisen making the people wonder whether there was a Prime Minister at all. This is what she has said.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: The situation is worse in Tamil Nadu. Can you deny this? ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, please allow me to read from "The Hindu" newspaper. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has very clearly stated that... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Mr. Swaminathan, will you yield for a minute?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Yes.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Madam, first of all, when we discuss such a sensitive issue, we should live up to the dignity of this House. I do not want to make any observation regarding the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister or the kind of observations that have been made about them. But a very venerable colleague of mine, Shri V. Narayanasamy, sometime ago made an observation that Shri Swaminathan was defending a bad Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. I think we can refer to the actions of the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister as bad but to refer to a person, whether she is the Chief Minister or he is the Prime Minister is not... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You should have understood what I have said. About the activities...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M.A. BABY: Let me complete. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): He did not say that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I said, as far as the- activities of the Chief minister... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M.A. BABY: Mr. Narayanasamy, please listen. I am subject to correction.

I have been listening to him very closely, Madam. He did refer. Now Narayanasamyji says that he was only referring to the actions of the Chief Minister. But what he said was 'bad Chief Minister'. If he has said that, it is not proper to have such a formulation going on record.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I do not think that Mr. Narayanasamy said what you are saying, any thing Mr. Baby. I did not hear him saying like that.

SHRI M.A. BABY: I do not want to say that the Chief Minister is good or bad.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I referred only to the activities of the Chief Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I heard it only like that.

SHRI M.A. BABY: I am not saying that the activities of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister are good. I and my party have our own reservations about that. My party has its own reservations about the actions of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. We have very serious criticisms about what she is doing. But he cannot make such a reference here. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, I will read out only this. (*Interruptions*) She said, "...but in Tamil Nadu a situation had arisen making the people wonder whether there was a Prime Minister at all. Ms. Jayalalitha said she did not want to comment about other States but the people of Tamil Nadu had their' own deep seated doubts on this." (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS

SAROJ KHAPARDE): I told you not to read out the whole paper, Mr. Swaminathan.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Only one sentence, Madam. Please allow me. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You are not supposed to read out the whole paper. This is not allowed. I won't allow.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Only one sentence. Finally...(*Interruptions*) I will not read out.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Swaminathan should apologise. ...*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: She has only said the because the hon. Prime Minister has not taken any action regarding Tamil Nadu, people are forced to wonder whether there is a Prime Minister at all looking at Tamil Nadu. (*Interruptions*). In that case, there is no necessity for the Tamil Nadu people to burn the effigies of the Prime Minister. (*Interruptions*) This is what she said. In that context, she used the word 'inert'.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please wind up now.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The word 'insert' only means 'inactive'. There have been accusations about the Prime Minister by many parties that the Prime Minister... (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please sit down, Mr. Swaminathan.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sometimes he is not taking action. The word 'inert' only means that no action has been taken by the Prime Minister. And no offence has been committed by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister against the Prime Minister. (*Interruptions*) We have respect for the Prime Minister. (*Interruptions*). Both I and our hon. Chief Minister have got respect for the

Prime Minister. I would request the hon. Members of the Congress Party not to unnecessarily create a stir on this matter. She has all the good opinion... *(Interruptions)*. Please read "The Hindu" which is very impartial newspaper... *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please sit down. *(Interruptions)*. Thank you.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: The Chief Minister has accused the very same "The Hindu" ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: She misused the forum of Legislature...*(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Swell. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): I am on a point of order. *(Interruptions)*. Association with the sentiments expressed need not be negative of the whole subject, even if you allow Mr. Swaminathan. *(Interruptions)*. But in a subtle way, he has incorporated a criticism by the Chief Minister in the record by quoting the Assembly proceedings. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I am reading out from "The Hindu". I am not quoting. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Meghalaya): Madam, I would like to say a few things. One of the very strong protests being made is that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was reported to have said that the Prime Minister was weak, ineffective ... *(Interruptions)*... It was reported in "The Hindu". ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Why do you try to divert from the issue? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Why are you raking up the same issue? *(Interruptions)*

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Ben-

gal): *Have some patience. Let nun speak. If I want to say something, you should listen to me. You may or may not like what I say. (Interruptions)*

SHRI G.G. SWELL: What I am saying is that one of the very strong protests being made and I have heard Mr. Narayanasamy saying that again and again is that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was reported to have said that the Prime Minister was weak, ineffective ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I did not say that *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: If you say that, you will be dismissed from the Congress Party. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.G. SWELL: What I am saying is that the Prime Minister, being the Prime Minister, has the strength to defend himself and to disprove what the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has said *(Interruptions)* He does not require the assistance of Narayanasamy or Vayalar Ravi or Jayanthi Natarajan. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Dr. Biplab Dasgupta. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: The issue which we raised was about the arrest of one lakh people and not about the Prime Minister. He does not follow English *(Interruptions)*

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I would like to make two points. But my fear is that the first point would be liked by one side of the House and the second point would be liked by the other side of the House. What I am saying is this. Whatever point I make, should be listened to with attention. No interruptions, please. *(Interruptions)* Please allow me to speak. What is this going on, Madam? You should stop this running commentary. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You address the chair.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: First of all, I feel that *bandh* is a legitimate weapon of protest in the hands of the Opposition and wherever the Opposition decides to hold a *bandh*, they can do so. It is their legitimate right. The government can certainly arrest criminals and the anti-social elements, who can indulge in unlawful activities, transcending the political barriers. I can certainly support that kind of arrests up to a certain point. But, obviously, nothing should be done to ensure that the voice of the Opposition is not heard. But, unfortunately, in the Tamil Nadu incident, thousands and thousands of people were arrested. I do not know the exact number. It may be 30,000 may be 40,000 or may be one lakh. It is a big number and the people who have been arrested, mostly are political activists. It is very unfortunate that such pre-emptive arrests have been made. I feel this exposes, to a certain extent, the authoritarian character of the regime. That I would like to put on record on behalf of my party.

The second point is, I did not like the way in which the discussion was conducted. It appeared as if the discussion was being conducted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. That should be stopped. If some Member has a view which is different from others, why don't you listen to him? If it happens in this case, then I do not agree with what Mr. Swaminathan is saying. He is saying this because he has a right to say what he wants to say. why are there attempts to stifle his voice? If we do not want the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to stifle the voice of the Opposition in Tamil Nadu, why should we stifle the voice of one Member here? They are not allowing him to speak. *(Interruptions)* What is this? *(Interruptions)* No, I am not yielding. Allow me to speak. Mr. Narayanasamy, I listened to you for such a long time. I think it is very wrong, the way attempts were made to silence his voice on this. It was very unfortunate. I noted the point made by him. What is wrong in saying that the

Prime Minister is inept? Is it unparliamentary? What is wrong about it? I have heard much more harsh expressions being used about the Prime Minister in this House ...*(Interruptions)*... do not mislead us ...*(Interruptions)*... what is wrong in using the expression 'inept'?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, what is this? In a democracy there should be fair criticism. I am sorry, Madam, If there is a fair criticism about any political leader, that is accepted, but making a pungent remark is not allowed in a democracy. It is autocracy or even dictatorship.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, will he continue like this? this is democracy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: There should be a fair criticism. You are a political leader. Another political leader is being attacked and remarks are made on his character. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: You consult any English dictionary. Does 'inept' mean anything wrong? It is not a reflection on the character of the Prime Minister or anybody else. ...*(Interruptions)*... 'inept' means the handling of the portfolio is wrong. That is not efficiently run. There is nothing wrong in it. I put it on record that the way this objection has been registered by the Congress Members showed their undue sensitivity. Whenever anything is said about the Prime Minister, everybody jumps up? Whenever the Prime Minister comes to the House, everybody comes to the House and whenever he leaves, everybody leaves. Why is there such a sensitivity? ...*(Interruptions)*... Why I am saying this is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Biplob Dasgupta, will you please conclude now?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, I am concluding, but please stop him from interrupting.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You do not ad-

dress him. You address the Chair.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: You also stop him from interrupting. I listened to him, but he is preventing me from speaking.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You speak.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: He is not allowing me to speak, he is interrupting every moment.

Madam, what I am saying is, if Mr. Narayanasamy feels that this is the way he conducts himself in the House, we are prepared to take up the challenge. We will not allow him to speak next time in the House. Does he want this?

Madam, the point is, if an opinion is expressed, there is nothing wrong in the expression 'inept'. Much more harsh expressions have been used, will be used and should be used and there is nothing wrong in it. If they are very sensitive about it, they have no right to criticise Ms. Jayalalitha. That is the point I am making. At the same time, going back to the substantive issue, what has happened in Tamil Nadu is very, very unfortunate. I hope that this will not be repeated in Tamil Nadu or anywhere else in the country. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, from the Congress (I) Party three persons want to speak but none of them is called. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, have these Members got a right to interrupt like *this*?...(*Interruptions*)... Have they got a right to stand up and interrupt others as and when they like?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please do not interrupt... (*Interruptions*)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: These interruptions should be stopped. Members' jumping should not be allowed. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Every time he stands up and interrupts like this.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: You behave properly ...(*Interruptions*)... Do not give us a lecture here ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Madam, 45 minutes are wasted in these interruptions. Please stop them.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): How can I run the House like this? So many persons are speaking together. Even I cannot hear anything. How can I stop them? How can I stop You? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: You are interrupting. We are not interrupting.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Madam, please stop them.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): How can I stop them? How can I stop you? You are speaking from this side. He is speaking from that side. What can I do? You must understand your responsibility in the House. You must listen to the Chair.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, we are supposed to discuss the situation arising out of mass arrests being made of political activists in Tamil Nadu on the eve of a general strike called by, maybe, most of the Opposition parties. Under the provisions of the Constitution, a general strike is an accepted form of protest. If a Government comes down heavily on the activists it smacks of authoritarianism and totally inconsistent with the democratic principles. Therefore, we put on record our strongest disapproval of the action of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Secondly, what is going on in Tamil Nadu is unprecedented. Somewhere there has to be a concern. The question is not

that somebody has made a comment about the Prime Minister. That is not the question. The question is, this Parliament is the custodian and defender of the democratic principles and the Constitution of the country. The way the things are moving in Tamil Nadu, only indicate that the democratic system has come to a halt and the whole system is getting destroyed. If this is the way the relationship shall develop between a Governor and a Chief Minister, if this is the way that a complaint is being made that somebody has been beaten up in the House, if a complaint is being made that the Governor has ordered the arrest of some persons, taking everything together, this speaks of a serious danger of the total breakdown of the Constitutional process in Tamil Nadu. This has to be halted. The point is, the whole system has broken down in Tamil Nadu and we cannot be a party to it. As the House of Elders and as the House of States we must express our unambiguous concern about the way things are being led to in Tamil Nadu. In such a situation the party that is having a majority in the Legislature, particularly the leader of the majority party and Chief Minister, Miss Jayalalitha, cannot be absolved of her responsibilities. She cannot disown her responsibilities. This situation cannot be allowed to continue. This is where we must express our concern and the concern is more so about the system than an individual.

Thirdly, I must say that we must evolve, the political parties must evolve, a code of conduct beyond which we cannot go. If Madam Jayalalitha is crossing her limits, it is everybody's responsibility to bring Madam Jayalalitha to sense. She must be brought to sense. This cannot continue. Sycophancy has a limit. I am told that people lay prostrate before her. What is this? Are we going back to medievalism?

Personally we cannot allow it to thrive to be cultivated for personal gains by the people in high positions. Therefore, I

express my concern about it. I denounce the strike and I hold these people responsible who are in a majority there. I plead that immediately the stalemate must end; otherwise, Indian democracy has no future. Thank you.

RE: CLOSURE OF AIRSPACE (DELHI AIRPORT) DUE TO VVIP MOVE- MENTS

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat): Madam, I know a lot of time has been taken by the earlier issues. I will try to be as brief and pointing as possible. We have just discussed about rights, democracy and the norms of it. Precisely that is the issue which I am also going to raise. While talking about the rights, democracy, etc. I would like to know if the citizens, ordinary citizens, have any rights, *vis-a-vis* VVIPs? Madam, during these last few years, what we have been talking on the floor of this House and what the powers that be are doing are totally at variance with each other. While we talk of democracy here, we have very little respect for the democratic rights of the ordinary citizen. Madam, what I am trying to come to is the closure of airports and the closure of roads at the slightest movement of WIPs. I really don't know who the VVIPs are. In a democracy it is the citizen who is a VVIP. Madam, while I am raising this issue, I may not be misunderstood that I want to undermine the security threat perception of anybody, least of all, of the VVIPs. I fully appreciate that in this modern world, there are threats and threats and threats. But the modern society should also respect the right to free movement of an ordinary citizen while taking care of the security arrangements of the VVIPs. Yesterday I was on a flight. We were just about to land at the Delhi airport. We were just 40 nautical miles away from Palam airport. Suddenly the pilot announces— "we are sorry. There is bound to be a delay of about 20 to 40 minutes before we can land." After