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REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED LATHI CHARGE BY POLICE ON THE WORKERS OF THE CON- GRESS (U) RALLY.

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SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): The hon. Member is mentioning the lathi charge and they cannot listen to him.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: I would request Shri Sita Ram Kesri not to provoke me. I would like to say that the Home Minister must come here and make a statement today or tomorrow because the problem is very serious. We find that when the Congress workers were peacefully attending the meeting and after the meeting, when the leaders Shri Devaraj Urs and Shri Jagjivan Ram were coming to the Parliament House to present a memorandum, some workers were coming with them, and the police attacked them brutally. When Shri Unnikrishnan was coming along with Smt. Ambika Soni, Shri Suresh Ram, Shri Bir Singh and others, one police officer, Mr. Singh, I do not know whether he is S.P. or whatever it is, he said: For Heaven's sake do not beat Shri Unnikrishnan because there will be a privilege problem, but others को लाठी चला दो। That means जो बैलेन्स रहा था, उसके ऊपर लाठी चला दो। They brutally attacked the remaining workers. Is that the policy...

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी (गुजरात) :
एक तो लाठी चार्ज होता है, उसके ऊपर
यह प्रहार होता है।

SHRI R. R. MORARKA (Rajasthan): He is the Minister. He should keep the dignity of the House.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Mr. Morarka, the present new breed of Ministers has the same culture.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The way Shriman Sita Ram Kesri is laughing, shows as if the lathi charge is the next great achievement on their part after the Kisan rally.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: I am not very much worried about laughing or not laughing be-

cause they are, what you call, the new breed of Ministers who have been brought in, but, Sir, the point is, the Congress (I) workers were particularly planted at the back of our party workers who were coming to the Parliament House and they threw stones. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order please.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE (Assam): You cannot bring in allegations like that.

MR. DEPUTY CHARMAN: Let him say. (Interruptions).

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Either prove it or withdraw your words.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Just sit down. (Interruptions).

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Why should I sit down? (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA (Himachal Pradesh): We have no sympathy with them. (Interruptions)

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: When hon. female Members there stand up and interrupt like this. I do not know in what language I should speak because my English is very poor. But they were having this kisan rally... (Interruptions). The point is that when the Kisan Rally was held, thousands of participants came here to see Parliament. No police officer dared attack them for breaking section 144, because section 144 is still applicable in Parliament House precincts. But at the time it was not done. And what is the charge here? They have been charged under section 307—attempt to murder. And who is the culprit? Mrs. Ambika Soni. Would you ever believe that Mrs. Usha Malhotra will ever kill me or Mrs. Monika Das will ever kill me? And, Sir, they came to the Central Bill also. This is the discrimination, Mrs. Indira

Gandhi wants to browbeat the opposition. The trucks which were coming from Faridabad etc. were stopped on the border, while it has been admitted by the Congress (I) General Secretary, Shri Vasantrao Patil or Shri Moopnar or Shri H. K. L. Bhagat that 36,000 trucks were brought for the Kisan Rally. I do not question that. You bring 36,000 or one lakh trucks, I do not bother. But when the Opposition parties... (Interruptions) would you advise the hon. lady Members that when Smt. Indira Gandhi asked them to be aggressive, she did not mean that they should be aggressive against everybody because they have to meet their husbands also at home? They should not forget all that. So they stopped the trucks of the party workers who were coming. This type of browbeating by the Prime Minister and her party is recoiling very much on their party. We will see that if they do it again and browbeat the Opposition parties, we will not take it lying down. I would request you and the Leader of the Opposition to ask the Home Minister to make a statement in this House on the Congress Rally and if those charges are there, then some enquiry—magisterial or judicial—should be made.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA (Uttar Pradesh): We support the demand... (Interruptions).

SHRI LAL K ADVANI: I would like to join Mr. Kulkarni in demanding this. Incidentally the Leader of the House is here. I would request him that this has become an invariable practice in Delhi that whenever there is a lathi charge—who is responsible and who is not responsible, I am not going to say at the moment—and after that the leaders are charged with a number of sections—as, for example, Mrs. Ambika Soni is charged with attempt to murder—this kind of think happens because the police wants to give some justification for the action they have taken—this should not happen; it never

happens. If there has been any stone-throwing then the person who has thrown the stone, whether he belongs to Congress (I) or to Congress (U), should be indentified and action taken against him. But the practice is that whosoever is the leader—Mrs. Ambika Soni, or Shri A. G. Kulkarni or Monika Das—he or she is charged with arson, attempt to murder and then after a few months those cases are withdrawn. This is a futile exercise. The police should be specifically told not to do it. In this particular case, I would expect that when a major rally has taken place, which has been lathi charged without provocation, there should be a statement from the Home Minister or the Government as to why this has happened. We should like to know that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I would like again to say what I requested before. Let us not go into this 3 P.M. on this occasion. We are concerned at the moment, with the police and the way they had behaved, Sir, I have said even when they were in power, whenever there was a lathi charge in Delhi near Parliament that there should be a statement and we should lay down certain rules so that such things do not happen—lathi charge and other kinds of violence. Demonstrators have been attacked sometimes in the past; their demonstrators have also been attacked. Now it is their turn and our turn to get attacked. Now, what I say is, can we not—Government and Opposition—sitting together, work out certain rules when, at least, peaceful demonstrations such as the one that took place will not be subjected to any kind of lathi charge or police reprisal? It is possible for us to do so. Why can't we do that. Besides, Sir, I find that people are charged with murder and so on. I do not know. They went to a meeting but did they go to commit murder? These things should be put a top to. I, of course, protest against the lathi charge, I had done it in their case

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