

11.58 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Report of Study Tour

[English]

SHRI ISHWAR CHOUDHARY (Gaya): I beg to lay on the Table the Report (Hindi and English versions) on Study Tour of Study Group I of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on its visit to Bhubaneshwar, Koraput, Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad during June, 1990.

11.59 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE-APPROVAL OF CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF PUNJAB

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): I beg to move:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 11th May, 1987, in respect of Punjab, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 11th November, 1990."

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion Moved:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation dated the 11th May, 1987, in respect of Punjab, issued

under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from 11th November, 1990."

(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I adjourn the House for twenty minutes. I invite the leaders of all parties to my Chamber.

12.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till twenty-five minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at twenty-five minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

12.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Ramchandrajai ki jai.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): Is it the last day of Lok Sabha that they are saying so?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I could not hear.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what happened to the issue of granting state-hood to Delhi?

MR. SPEAKER: Can't you check yourself from speaking on Delhi?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, firing is going on in Delhi. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If time permits, I will give you an opportunity to speak. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from Shri Khurana's way of speaking how eager he is to provide statehood to Delhi. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: What they have to do with statehood?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): The hon. Home Minister has to reply in regard to the incident that took place in Gonda in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: No, the House is going to hold a discussion on that issue.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura West): Sir, why don't you announce?

3—2 LSS/ND/91

MR. SPEAKER: We will be taking up the Statutory Resolution and after that we will be discussing about the communal situation in the country under Rule 193. That will be moved by Mr. H. K. L. Bhagat. We will be taking up the discussion under Rule 193 after the disposal of the Statutory Resolution.

SHRI DINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the morning, you had an opportunity to take the sense of the House on the communal issue. You saw how concerned the entire House was. We had moved an Adjournment Motion in the morning to consider this matter. We had advisedly moved the Adjournment Motion because it was not merely a question of law and order of any particular State. It was also not a matter merely for the House to debate it. It was a matter in which the Central Government has a special responsibility and we feel that the Central Government should undertake that responsibility...(*Interruptions*)

That is why we had moved an Adjournment Motion. However, you were pleased to decide that it will not be taken up as an Adjournment Motion, but as a Motion under Rule 193. As always respecting your decision, we have not raised any objection to it and we abide by your decision.

We shall now discuss this under Rule 193. All our request to you is that the Adjournment Motion moved by Shri H. K. L. Bhagat should be converted into Motion under Rule 193 and which reads as follows:

“to raise a discussion on the communal disturbances in Gonda in Uttar Pradesh and elsewhere in the country.”

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): We have no objection.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, Prof. Madhu Dandavate said yesterday that something will be said today in the House about the Chief Justice's unusual death. What is the decision about that?

MR. SPEAKER: You will know about it after we dispose of the Punjab issue. Let us hear Mr. P. Chidambaram.

14.09 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. APPROVAL OF CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF PUNJAB—Contd.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Si-vaganga): Sir, we have a Statutory Resolution on the continuance of President's Rule in Punjab. Yesterday, we restrained ourselves. We did not speak at any of the stages of the Constitution Amendment Bill. We had sought your permission to make some submissions thereafter. But, since yesterday some other issues have come up and we would like to make our submissions today. We supported the Constitution Amendment Bill and we support this consequential Resolution, not because we believe that this Government has a Punjab policy or because this Government will have a Punjab policy. Let me make that very clear. When this Government took over on the 2nd of December, 1989, it was not at the end of a six-monthly period of President's rule but only one month after President's rule had been extended on the 11th of November. Therefore, they had full five months

in which they could have evolved the policy and implemented the policy. Their manifesto was written in very high-sounding terms. They gave the impression that the moment Rajiv Gandhi Government went out of office, the Punjab problem would be solved. I want to remind this House that Punjab situation deteriorated first during Barnala's rule and that deterioration continued. The turning point came in June, 1988 when we had 'Operation Black Thunder'. After that and in a matter of sixteen months after 'Operation Black Thunder' conditions were created where elections could be held in Punjab at least for parliament. It does not lie in the mouth of this Government to say that election was totally vague, or totally unfair or totally not peaceful. If they say that, Mr. Gujral should first resign and then this Government should say that. Mr. Gujral cannot continue as a member of the Council of Ministers if this Government turns out to say that that election was not free or fair. Yes, there were problems in that election, nobody denies that, particularly in the three constituencies which are in the border districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Ferozepur. But conditions were created where elections could be held, elections were held. One of the Members elected from Punjab is a distinguished member of this Government, a distinguished member of this undistinguished government, and the longer he remains as a member of this undistinguished government, I am afraid, he may become an undistinguished member of an undistinguished government ... (*Interruptions*). At 3 O' clock we will know whether he is distinguished or not. We will know at 3 O' clock when he responds on the Kuldeep Nayyar issue.

Let me read out some very interesting statement on the recent history of Punjab. Four letters were exchanged between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and I had made a brief reference to

them on Monday. The third letter was curt, almost impolite, from the Prime Minister to the Leader of the Opposition. He said: "Thank you for your letter". A major English language newspaper said that the Prime Minister has said: "Enough is enough. I will not talk to him". So, we thought, may be the Prime Minister really has a hot line with this Paper and the Prime Minister really thought enough was enough. Seven days later comes another letter. And what does this letter say? It says: "The Government wants to hold elections at the earliest but the BJP and the CPI and the CPI(M) do not want to hold elections." I am surprised that the crutches cannot see the game of this Government. This is a Government which has one motto—pass the buck if that fails, pass the blame. That is the motto of this Government. They want to pass the buck for decision-making to the Opposition, to the supporting parties, to the allies, to the crutches. If somebody fails to rise to the bait, pass the blame. The Leader of the Opposition wrote back saying: "What do you mean by earliest? Is it before 11th of November or after 11th of November? Do you want to have President's rule and then hold elections or do you want to hold elections after revoking President's rule?" This question has not been answered until this day. The Prime Minister studiously avoided answering it despite a demand from this side that the Prime Minister should intervene. And he said—I will speak later, in fact, if I may quote Hindi words, then the Home Minister will decline. He said, 'Baad me'. I suppose "Baad me" means afterwards. (Interruptions). He said that on that day. Unfortunately, you have moved out of your complacency and smugness only when we administered shock treatment to you. But on Monday we administered a shock treatment, you came out with the package... With you presiding, Mr. Arun Nehru participating and with Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan participating you brought a package. But

today when we point out "Baad me", "Baad me" is not four days later. "Baad me" means four days later or 40 minutes later. "Baad me" is not four days later only. "Baad me" can also be four years later.

And, Sir, when we asked, 'Can you assure us, can you assure the nation that elections will be free and fair?' there was no answer. In the National Integration Council Meeting the same question was asked: "What do you mean by saying early election?" And then they came out with a startling theory, an almost astounding proposition, that the Government will extend President's Rule for six months, and simultaneously announce the date of election. Sir, never in the history of a democratic Government is there a better example of hunting with the hound and running with the hare. You want to have your cake and eat it too. You want to have President's Rule and hold election. Where is the date for election? Why was it not announced? Sir, this Government has no policy, this Government cannot have a policy. This Government has only one policy and that policy will be implemented in the next few days. This Government will change the Governor. The policy of this Government as far as Punjab is concerned is: Have a Governor for three months and change the Governor. Have another Governor for three months, change the Governor. Last time they found that on the 24th offering, Shri Virendra Varma accepted Governorship. This time, consistent with your 76th Amendment, perhaps you have to offer to 76 persons before anybody accepts Governorship of Punjab. So long as Shri V. P. Singh is Prime Minister, so long as Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed is the Home Minister, nothing will move in Punjab, there will be no policy in Punjab and nothing can be expected of this Government. And what did the Home Minister say? What is he going to do in Punjab?

[Sh. P. Chidambaram]

He said: "We have made 130 kilometres of fencing." I thought he should have the courtesy to say that out of these 130 kilometres of fencing, 123 kilometres were laid during the tenure of the previous Government. In 10 months they have laid 7 kilometres of fencing. Except this single achievement of 7 kilometres of fencing, nothing has been done in Punjab.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Subject to correction, it is seven-and-a-half kilometres.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, seven-and-a-half kilometres. Half-a-kilometres was done between Monday and today!

Sir, this is what the distinguished writer says:

"The Prime Minister's dilemma arises from the fact that his allies, both on the Right and the Left are dead set against elections. And whatever be his own perception or that of the party he leads....."

We do not know it because the Janata Dal's leader even on Monday said from Bangalore that the Janata Dal Government wants to hold election even while here the Prime Minister and everybody is moaning the failure of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

"... We cannot survive without the support of these allies."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): Who says that?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am telling you, I will give you these three cases. I will see to it that you have these three cases. He says:

"His latest stance is that he would go for another extension, but will fix a date for the poll along with it. Thus, he wants to project the impression that he is going for this course much against his will."

Who says this? This is by Mr. Jagjit Singh Anand. In another statement he says:

"The fact that a Minister of the Central Government during his recent visit to Kapurthala had a secret *tete-a-tete* with an extremist group and went to pay homage to the Taksal Chief, Baba Thakur Singh openly, only proves the point."

"It has no policy for the Punjab at all. Otherwise, the Prime Minister would not be over-reaching himself to win the goodwill of those dead-set against our integrity and sovereignty and would not be craving for the imaginery opportunity lost after his first Amritsar visit."

Now, Mr. Jagjit Singh Anand, I believe, is a former Member of Rajya Sabha and a Member of the National Council of the CPI.

Sir, here is another document and I think some other Members will be pleased to read this document.

"The terrorist menace which was, till about 6 to 8 months back, that is when the Rajiv Gandhi Government demitted office, confined to certain pockets in

the border areas, has spread to most parts of the State right from Chandigarh to Abohar. In the Jeera tehsil of Ferozpur district, the security forces no longer dare to assert their authority. 'Khalsa-panchayats' have been set up giving the seal and sanction to Khalistan. No political party is allowed to enter these areas."

This is the record of this Government in the last 10 months.

Sir, they had 5 months in that spell of President's rule; they had another 6 months from the 11th of May to 10th of November and in 11 months this Government have not been able to evolve a policy in Punjab and we do not believe it will be able to evolve a policy in Punjab in the next six months. But this Government and this Prime Minister, the problem of them is their self-righteousness. You take cover under a self-righteous position that you are morally, ethically and politically superior to everybody and therefore what you think, what you say, what you do and what you do not do is right and nobody need be consulted in 10 months, the halo has gone; I do not know when the crown will go. It will, perhaps, go courtesy the BJP by the 30th of October. So, the halo will go, the crown will go, but nothing will improve in Punjab. What is the problem? The problem is not only the minority nature of this Government; the problem is the precarious quality of its governance. Everytime an issue comes up, the Janata Dal and the National Front go into a hurdle and everytime you come out of a hurdle, you go into a muddle and if you get out of a muddle, you get into another hurdle. This is what we see. A meeting is held here, a meeting is held in the South Block, a meeting is held in the North Block and a meeting is held in the Home Minister's office. But, what comes out of it? Nothing comes out of it.

Sir, we abstained from the Constitution (Amendment) Bill to prove: (1) the minority character of your Government; (2) the precarious nature of your governance. What you try to do is to project a myth. This Government is a bubble; often enough, this bubble must be pricked to show that this Government has no legitimacy and no moral authority to rule this country. That is why we had abstained. Even yesterday, when the number went up as 380, we had 162 or 161 people of this side leaving only 220 on your side and finally when 353 went up in the second stage, we had 151 on this side and in the last stage, when 432 went up on the board we had 182 on this side.

14.23 hrs. [MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The point we are trying to make is, with your minority character, with the precarious nature of your Government, with your supporting parties totally opposed to you on the basic issue in Punjab, with no standing and no locus as far as Punjab is concerned, we do not think that you will have a policy ever in Punjab.

Sir, as far as elections are concerned, our party's position is very clear. When we held elections to Parliament, we raised an expectation among the people that following Parliament elections, elections will be held to the Assembly and I believe that if a firm and forthright policy had been continued in Punjab, we could have held elections to the Assembly. We would like elections to be held at the earliest. But since you are in Government, since you have possession of information from intelligent sources, it is for you to tell the nation—not for us—that you can assure free and fair elections in Punjab. This ques-

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tion was not answered by the Prime Minister. This question was not answered in the National Integration Council meeting. This question has not been answered by the Home Minister and I do not know whether the Prime Minister, when he intervenes, will answer this question. When does the Government expect to assure that free and fair elections will be held in Punjab? If you cannot make that assurance say after a period of one month, two months or six months, then you have no moral authority to ask for extension of six months of President's rule. But since you are in Government and we refuse to accept the buck that you have passed to us, you must take the decision and you must take the responsibility. We go along with you unconvinced by your capacity or ability or competence, unconvinced by your intelligence in evolving a policy, unconvinced by anything that you do. We go along only because you cannot assure the country that you can hold free and fair elections in Punjab. Therefore, Sir, we hold this Government squarely responsible for incompetence, inaptitude, and worse, we hold this Government squarely responsible for trying to hide its sins of omissions and commissions behind self-righteousness and smugness and in every opportunity we shall administer shock treatment to you so that you come out of complacency and smugness. We believe that in the next six months things will only get worse and six months later, Parliament will have to meet once again, may be to mourn the demise of this Government, if not sooner.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am informed that the Parties are not fielding their Members to speak. Only two or three Members are likely to speak and then the Resolution will be passed.

Now I call upon Shri Kirpal Singh to speak—not here. Shri Rajdev Singh.

SHRI RAJDEV SINGH (Sangrur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as already

submitted by me on 1st October while participating in the debate regarding Constitution (Amendment) Bill seeking extension of President's rule, the elections are not going to solve the Punjab problems. There is absolutely no point in fixing the date for holding of the elections in Punjab. That will not serve any useful purpose. Let the hon. Prime Minister fix a firm date on which the Government is going to declare the Sikh as separate religion meaning thereby, you are going to make the Hindu Succession Act, the Hindu Marriage Act, the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act and the Hindu Minorities and Guardianship Act inapplicable to the Sikhs and enacting new enactments for application to the Sikhs.

Further the Government should amend article 25 of the Constitution of India to declare the Sikh religion as one of the religions and the date should be fixed for this purpose. If the date is fixed only for holding of elections, then elections will prove disaster rather than to serve any useful purpose of bringing back normalcy in Punjab.

The Government should take steps to repeal the Act to Prevent Misuse of Religious Place. That Act was enacted by the previous Government with the sole purpose to hurt the feelings of the Sikhs. The religion can never be separated from the politics. Politics and religion in Sikhism are inseparable and will go together. The background of that Act was after the Black Thunder, the Government in order to hurt the sentiments of Sikhs, had brought this enactment. It is for the present Government to repeal that enactment and to restore the confidence among the Sikhs.

Thirdly, the Government should declare Jats amongst backward class and they should be included in the List of Backward Classes because Jats are essentially backward class. So, they must be included in "Other Backward Class."

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Marathas should be included in the backward list.

SHRI RAJDEV SINGH: It is for you to raise this question. I am not concerned at this stage about that matter. It is for you to raise this point.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You must confine yourself to Punjab policy issue.

SHRI RAJDEV SINGH: I am talking about Punjab policy, not about Marathas. It is up to you to discuss about it. *(Interruptions)* Now I am talking only about the decision on Punjab issue. We should view the Punjab problem as a national problem and should appreciate it from that angle. When we are going to discuss about Punjab, you raise the issue of another State and when we are discussing the problem of Haryana, then you raise the issue of Punjab. You should raise the matter that is being discussed in the House. *(Interruptions)*

All the Sikhs who were detained in Punjab on various charges should be released unconditionally as was done in Mizoram and Nagaland at the time of the settlement of the issue. There will be no harm if the name of the present Punjab is changed from Punjab to Khalistan. Khalistan is within the Constitutional framework. The name of the present Punjab can be changed as Khalistan because the names of Nagaland and Mizoram were also given for the sole reason that these States have vast population of Mizos and Nagas. *(Interruptions)* There is no harm in changing the name. Confidence can be restored.

Steps should be taken to introduce the recruitment of Sikhs in the armed forces of India. *(Interruptions)* Now in the Armed Forces of India, the Sikhs are only 2% and their strength should be increased more so that the

Sikhs may have a chance to serve the motherland and to defend the motherland. I want to make it clear that I want every step should be taken within the framework of the Constitution of India and there can be no challenge to the unity and integrity of India from the Sikhs. Sikhs would never like to pose a challenge to the unity and integrity of India.

The extortions and the murders of innocent persons are going on in Punjab. Suppression is continuing. It is continuing on such a large scale that it is difficult to state in accurate words the way in which the full suppression is going on in Punjab. The extortions are being committed both by the anti-social elements as well as by the police. There is need to check it up.

I again request the hon. Prime Minister that he should fix a firm date on which the Sikhs are going to be declared as a separate clan. The Sikhs are full of faith in the Prime Minister of India and the Sikhs have confidence in the hon. Prime Minister. *(Interruptions)*

Again, I want to make it clear that there can be no challenge and nobody can challenge the sovereignty, the unity and integrity of India and the Sikhs will guard the Motherland in case of any attack on Punjab, on India. The Sikhs have full confidence that the hon. Prime Minister of India will take immediate steps to restore the confidence of the Sikhs. We have full faith in the leadership of hon. Prime Minister of India.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my hon. friend Shri Chidambaram has already told the House how this Government cannot itself be depended upon to find a proper solution to this Punjab problem. From what my hon. friend, who hails from Punjab, has just now said, if we have to allow the overflow of this kind of a division amongst ourselves on to the Punjab electioneering arena, my fear is that they would vote only for those Khalistanis

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and what is worse, for all those who are demanding self-determination for Punjab. Mr. Mann—not the present one but the other one, their leader I suppose and their senior—who has circulated his memorandum among our Members has left no doubt at all in what he is aiming at. They want self-determination for Punjab. Therefore, they would go to the polls on that demand. What are we going to do? All the different political parties which are represented here, national political parties, the two Communist Parties, the BJB, the Janata Dal and the Congress, what are they going to do? Are we going to fight against each other in the coming elections? I take it that the Prime Minister as well as all those friends who are supporting the Prime Minister and his Group in Parliament, is keen about holding elections in Punjab. During the elections, what will happen? Mr. Mann, who is there outside this House, who refused to come to this House unless his demand has been accepted to hold the sword 3 ft. long, named in a religious manner as *Kirpan*, that gentleman stands by self-determination. He is in league directly or indirectly, openly or secretly with those people who are carrying on terrorism and violence threatening everybody in the whole of Punjab. Are we going to allow him and his colleagues also who stand in the elections, threaten everybody holding the threat of death at every candidate, whosoever cares and has got the courage to stand by their candidate? Are we going to allow him to have his own say in those elections, while we go on fighting among ourselves? This is the challenge which the hon. Prime Minister as well as his colleagues will have to take themselves seriously. We cannot think of extending the President rule any longer than the six months period. Mr. Mufti may be there or may not be there. But six months period is the maximum period. Within this period, you have got to hold elections whatever be your political conveniences and political consequences.

Within six months, you must see to it that democratic forces succeed, that those people who demand for self-determination do not succeed. Punjab people are not only Sikhs. My hon. friend must remember that they would not care because they are carried away by the same kind of fundamentalist madness from which Pakistan had suffered and because of the British alliance and British support, they were able to succeed in having Pakistan. These people would not have it so directly. But, nevertheless, they have got the support of the terrorists and terrorists are holding sway there in Punjab and against the democrats.

So far as democratic forces are concerned, at one time, we might not be prepared to accept these friends from the Communist Party to be as good democrats as the rest of us. But today, they are also democrats. They swear by democracy in whatever land it is, from wherever they were having their inspiration earlier. Whether they derive any inspiration or not is another thing which I leave it to them. Today they are also democrats. We are democrats. Are all the democrats going to raise themselves in some form or the other in a united form in the name of India, in the name of Indian nationalism, Indian democracy? (*Interruptions*) For God's sake, I am not going to make any controversial speech now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): The Communist Party of India was among the first communist parties of the world before even the CPSU could think of it. In 1958, the Communist Party of India decided at Amritsar not through any resolution but by way of the Preamble to the Constitution that CPI would strive for peaceful part of socialism. And if it is established, then there will be full freedom, even freedom of political opposition, to oppose socialism if they abide by the Constitution. CPI was among the fewest parties in the world before any division and

that was in 1958. I request Professor to get himself corrected.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: I am not here to have any kind of controversy with my friend in the Communist Party now. I stand corrected. I have already said that today the communists friends also are democrats. They can be democrats. All of us are democrats excepting these fundamentalists, these self-determination-wallahs and those terrorists in Punjab. It is for our friends now to decide. We have been talking of democracy. But the most unfortunate thing is, as my hon. friends have already said, number of times they have not tried to live up to their own profession of doing things, taking decisions on the basis of consensus. At least for the next six months, for the sake of the safety, unity, sovereignty and integrity of India, will they stand up to their professionalism of consensus and try their best, if need be by making sacrifices and also asking other parties to make some sacrifices also? All of them should be brought together and persuaded to set up their candidates in some form of juxtaposition or the other among themselves according to their respective strengths in Punjab, when Punjab is having some semblance of democracy, stand by them, canvass on their behalf, ensure peaceful conditions and assure the country that these self-determination wallahs are not having the confidence of the people, that the masses of Punjab stand by India, swear by Indian democracy and the Indian constitution and agree to be Indians and not Khalistanis.

Let them call themselves anything they like, but not self-determination-wallahs, people who will go to the United Nations, receive support from Pakistan and various other countries and in that way destroy our Indian unity and integrity. Are we ready for it? We may not be ready today; but we are giving an opportunity to these people through this Parliament by passing this amendment yesterday and trying to pass this Resolution today.

Who are we? Are we going to be Indians or not first and last? After that you can divide yourselves into various political parties. This is the appeal I wish to make. My hon. friend Mr. Dass has made a very good suggestion. The Governor is there. There should be a council; there should be advisors also. The council should consist of some Members of this House, also advisors should be chosen from amongst those Punjabis who are genuinely loyal to India, India's unity and India's democracy. Start it that way in a non-political manner, non-partisan manner, non-factionous manner and in a genuine Indian manner. Are we going to accept these challenges or not? Are we not going to meet this challenge or not? That is what we have to say to ourselves.

A large number of our Communist friends have died at the altar of India's unity in Punjab. They stood the test of patriotism. They have sacrificed tremendously. Some of our Congress people have also made sacrifices. And I dare say other Parties know the facts as to how many of their own people have made sacrifices. We have to demonstrate to ourselves, to our own conscience that their sacrifices do not go in vain. We should deserve their sacrifices by the kind of sacrifice we are prepared to make. And what sort of sacrifice we have to make today? Two kinds. Firstly we have to hold our own ambition, our political party's ambitions under control and be ready to make necessary adjustments. Secondly we must give sufficient confidence and sufficient strength to our armed forces there, to our para-armed people, to our policemen and to the Governor and others who are now trying to see that there is peace in Punjab.

There is too much of condemnation of the security forces in Punjab. Too much. Take any police man. Has he not got any family? Is he not having any kind of concern about his own family when he goes out of his house in the morning and be ready to

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face bullets and swords and all the other challenges that come from these terrorists? Every day he makes that decision. We knew that they are great patriots. My heart goes out for them and their families. We have to think about them. They are the people who are standing by us; let us stand by them; let us not cavil at any kind of a mistake that they commit. If it is an involuntary mistake, we should be prepared to excuse; if they do not discharge their duties, we should be prepared to punish them. But, Sir, we should hold them to be as patriotic as we ourselves are. If this Prime Minister, like the other Prime Ministers could not find any other jobs for them, then, they have to accept the job of the policemen. But, nevertheless, they are also family men. They have their responsibilities towards their families. They are also discharging their responsibilities towards the country and our Government, by risking their lives every minute. They do not know where from the death is going to stare at them. So, we must give them every possible support to ensure that the elections are free—free not only from our booth-capturing politicians, but it should also be free from the terror of the terrorists, terror of death and challenge of death that is being hurled at them. My hon. friend was telling the other day as to what was happening in Tarn Taran. There is no Government. It is their power. Now, we have to fight against that power. That power is spreading over the whole of Punjab more and more.

Three, four letters were distributed among us. Just like the one Sardar Mann has distributed, some other people have also distributed the other day. All of you must have been the recipients of that. Now, we have to meet that challenge. It is not going to be easy to hold elections in Punjab. Our friends were telling, "hold the elections in a free and honest manner". It should be free from whom? It should not be free from our respective challenges, that we make against

each other. But, it should be free from the bullets of the terrorists. Who are the terrorists? Are they all Sikhs? No. Are they all Hindus? Are they not Pakistanis, disguising as Sikhs and Hindus? They are there. How can you be sure that one is an Indian and the other one is a Pakistani? We do not know. All these challenges are there. Elections cannot be free in Punjab, even if we are all united and put up our own united candidate, unless we make sure that there is peace during the elections and even after the elections. There should be an assurance of safety not only for the candidates, not only for the canvassers, but also for the families of the people who have the courage to go to the polls and vote. That is the kind of atmosphere we have got to create. From what my hon. friend Mr. Chidambaram has said, I cannot say that he is wrong. I do not know whether this Government has got that moral and material strength. Therefore, it is the duty of the rest of us to give the strength to this Government and ensure that whatever Government might be there in Punjab, it would be a national Government from the sense that it will be a national administration. From the national point of view, as a nation, India has got to go to the elections unitedly and see that the terrorists are caught; people who have got the courage to stand up to the terrorists, go to the polling booths and vote, those who stand as candidates and also as the supporters to the voters are safe; they should feel sure of their safety even after the elections are over; and also see that India wins in that elections. Let us then have an opportunity of meeting once again here in Parliament and congratulate ourselves.

[*Translation*]

S ATINDER PAL SINGH (Patiala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a number of doubts are raised, whenever a discussion on Punjab issue in the context of Sikhs is held in this House. I have said it in my maiden speech also that you can only win the confidence of the people of Punjab

when you free yourself from self-interests and prejudices. I would like to ask some questions in brief from the Hon. Prime Minister and from the leaders of all the parties sitting in this House.

First: If this country is called Hindustan, no hon. Member sitting in this House raises any objection to it. I would like to ask if Atinder Pal Singh says that Hindustan is an unconstitutional word and that it should be expunged from the proceedings that have taken place till now, he would be levelled as a traitor for taking this constitutional step. Will it be proper? Show me a single sentence in the Constitution where India has been referred to as Hindustan. The name of our country is Bharat. Can't you see communalism and treachery in using the word Hindustan? Is such a thing in the interest of the country? But when I raise any demand in the House, I am levelled as a traitor, even though my demand is constitutional. This House should make it clear whether it is ready to accept us or not?

Second: When I have been elected to this House, am I a Member of Parliament or not? And if it is so, why am I looked upon with suspicion? Why don't you free yourself from prejudices? If you can't do so, I also take a pledge today that we will make no effort to free you from your prejudices. Should all the efforts be made from our side only? Has this country no duty towards the people of Punjab? Will this country always look upon the people of Punjab with suspicion? If this is your view, I cannot support it.

Third: You must think before you bring the amendment here. Democracy is being murdered there for the last three and half years. The entire nation except Punjab is on one side. As the situation in Punjab is not stable, you can murder the democracy there. At least, you should do some re-thinking. Even God excuses 3 murders, but you have done more than that. Where is the limit? Con-

stitutional limit in this regards is only five years. At any cost, you cannot suspend democracy for more than five years. After 5 years, you have to go to the people for electing a Government. Then why are you side-tracking this issue? Don't you have the courage to face the people? What is the meaning of this democracy, if you and the democracy of this country do not have the courage to face the people?

Fourth: I do not want to raise these questions, but I am forced to do so because whenever representatives of Punjab say something, they are looked upon with suspicion. A lot has been said about the police.

15.00 hrs.

What I am telling you is based on facts. I pose this question to the nation. If the car of Atinder Pal Singh was seized and his driver arrested on 17th December by the Batala Police for the simple reason that Atinder Pal Singh visited the houses of the people killed in police encounters, then I want to ask as to what action was taken thereon after the matter was brought to the notice of the Home Minister, I.G., Police and Punjab administration? What is our fault that we are not allowed to move in our own country? When a member belonging to B.J.P. is arrested, the entire House unitedly protests against it but why similar protest is not made in our case? Atinder Pal Singh is threatened by S.S.P., Patiala that if he did not mend his ways, he would get him killed in an encounter! Is the House concerned with the safety of the member of Parliament? How can an S.S.P. have the audacity of refusing meeting a member of Parliament and shutting the door of his office saying that he might go and complaint to anybody? My S.P.O. was arrested only because he belonged to Atinder Pal Singh. I brought this matter to the knowledge of the Home Minister and the Prime Minister. At that time, there was no case against the SPO. When it was brought to their notice, a twelve bore country made gun was

[S. Atinder Pal Singh]

put on his shoulders. He was kept under detention for 22 days. The D.C., Batala wrote a letter to the Punjab Home Ministry stating that there was no case registered against that person. The day I brought this fact to the notice of the Home Minister he was charged of possessing a country made 12 bore gun. Is it something that is in the interest of the nation? If it is so, we are not prepared to accept it. We are not willing to cooperate in such an atmosphere. If you are genuinely interested in solving the Punjab problem, you must stop hollow slogans. I want to say in very unambiguous terms that Punjab is totally fed up of these slogans of ap-
peachment. Please give these slogans a practical shape and tell us in clear terms the facilities slated for Punjab. What are your views on Punjab? Do you accept Sikh as Sikhs or not? The maximum punishment under the Act is three years but the Sikh youths in Punjab have been in custody for more than five years. For what fault of theirs is this discriminatory attitude being adopted towards them? On what ground have they been kept in jails for a period extending upto five years without trial. Please tell us as to why the sikhs are being tried in Special Courts and why they are not tried in open courts? And, when we put our demands we are charged with treason! If this is the definition of treason, then I would say that those who have laid down such a definition are the biggest traitor. The House must address itself to the solution of Punjab problem.

The situation cannot improve if we continue to present our views based on politically motivated facts. If you are sincere in finding a solution, then the Prime Minister should make an announcement that all those who have been languishing in jails, without trial will be released. Cases have been registered against more than 250 Sikh women. I urge upon lady Members of Parliament to come forward and help them. What is the fault of those who have not been tried so far?

The Prime Minister should make an announcement for their release today itself.

If you want to win the confidence of Punjab then why does the House not express its regret over what had happened in 1984? If a minor accident takes place and 10-50 persons are killed, then the House expresses its grief but why this House has not conveyed its condolences to the next of kins of those killed in the 1984 riots which were actually engineered? I want the Prime Minister to take an initiative in this matter and bring a resolution to this effect. I would like to make it clear that this should not be termed as demands. The Government is responsible for creating these problems. The Government will have to solve these problems and rectify the blunders they have committed. None but the Government has to do this. If the Government shirks from it, it should not expect the solution of the Punjab problem.

My concluding submission is that solution to any problem cannot be found unless we approach the person responsible for creating the said problem. Why don't you contact those persons who are responsible for creating problems in Punjab. If you really want to find a solution to this problem you will have to approach them and win their confidence. I would like to know the action that you are going to take in this regard?

We have seen what took place in that state during the last six months. Now I would like to know your line of action for the coming six months. In this regard, it is necessary to take the House in to confidence. I would request the nation not to look towards the sikh community with a suspicious eye. As I had referred to in my first speech also, those people who had signed the resolution regarding parallel constitution in the Pakistan Assembly were made Chief Justice, etc. and among those signatories, seventeen were Hindus who agreed to the creation of Pakistan. Among the signatories

there was not a single Sikh. This reveals your patriotism towards the nation. If this is the definition of patriotism, we refuse to accept it. If the fight in Punjab is on this very point, then we cannot go along with you. You must make it clear as to what is your opinion about us, about Punjab and about the Sikh community.

I would like to conclude here with the request that if you really wish to win the confidence of the people of Punjab, then you must descend to the grass-root level and tell the people of the State what you have decided to offer to them.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We had discussed the amendment to the Constitution which was very relevant to the present issue. In the Speaker's chamber, it was agreed among the leaders of the different parties that we would complete the discussion and voting on this Resolution by 3 O'clock. It was also agreed that Members of all the parties may not speak except two or three. Now, I hope I can call upon the hon. Prime Minister to speak

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): It was also decided that a chance would be given to our party as also some Members from the Congress(I). That was accepted. We will take one or two minutes each. We want to listen to the hon. Prime Minister's intervention. We are very particular about that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. I would allow two or three Members from the Congress (I). That would request them, as they have been very ably conveying all their views in very short time, they will do the same thing now also and complete within two or three minutes. I would then request the hon. Prime Minister to reply to the debate.

Now, Dr. Thambi Durai.

DR. THAMBI DURAI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing

the Resolution moved by the hon. Home Minister for extending the President's rule in Punjab. I want to convey, through you, to the National Front Government that this kind of continuance of the President's rule in Punjab is not the solution for the Punjab problem. We can solve the problems of the Punjab only by restoring democracy in that State. While speaking one of our Members, who is from Punjab, gave the assurance that he is for the unity of the country. He said that at any cost his Party would not divide the country. Sir, we are very glad to hear him saying that he is going to fight for the unity of the country. Everybody knows that if we do not have a strong nation, we cannot survive and we will not be able to solve our problems.

In his speech he mentioned about the problems which the people living in Punjab are facing. Through you, I would like to convey to the National Front Government that only by restoring the federal set up in the country they can solve the problems of the States, because our country is having different culture and different languages.

Yesterday in his speech the Prime Minister said that he believes in the decentralisation of power. I don't know what steps he has so far taken to decentralise the power which is accumulated in the Centre. The same Janta Government in 1977 brought education from State List to Concurrent List. I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether he would bring any legislation so as to restore the education in the State List. In the name of the federal set up and also in the name of unity they have taken most of the powers from the States to the Centre. Because of this kind of attitude we have so many disturbances in the States. The disturbance is there not only in Punjab but in Kashmir also. Yesterday, the Prime Minister announced that he is going to decentralise power. I am also very happy to know that he announced some package of schemes to

[Dr. Thambi Durai]

solve the economic problems of Punjab. I appreciate this announcement but this is not enough. Yesterday also I asked as to when he is going to bring the Right to Work Bill. Today, being the last day of the Session, we are anxiously waiting for this announcement. So, I once again request him to try to keep his words and try to decentralise power and also try to bring the Right to Work Bill as soon as possible.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, I shall take as little time as possible. I have risen only to put the records straight and to make a very brief appeal. Through you, Sir, I appeal to Smt. Bimal Kaur Khalsa to put the interpretation on.

SHRIMATI BIMAL KAUR KHALSA: I can understand English.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Thank you. Dear sister yesterday accused the two Communist Parties and she said that the CPI and CPI(M) are the parties who are opposing the elections in Punjab. So, to put the records straight I would just read out what Shri Indrajit Gupta yesterday said on this score and I quote:

"My party will, of course, vote for this amendment, i.e. for the letter of this amendment. But we are not in favour of its spirit. If I could vote in spirit, I vote against it. Why? Because, we are convinced that these repeated doses of President's Rule has become a chronic feature now in Punjab; it is not going to help improve the situation if we go on in the old way."

Then he very clearly spoke about our stand and I quote once again:

"These gentlemen of the Press should not be given an impression, as they go on giving, that the left parties particularly the two Communist Parties are absolutely dead set against elec-

tions; they do not want elections under any circumstances like the BJP. And they say that because the BJP and the Left allied are taking a stand like that, therefore, the President has no option but to go in for another spell of President's Rule."

This is not our stand. This is to put the record straight about our stand.

My appeal is, let this House pass a Resolution irrespective of political parties today itself --not to really put our country in difficulty and not to destroy it. Let us all appeal to the people that communal harmony whether in Punjab or elsewhere must be protected. For that I also appeal to BJP to maintain communal harmony. After all, they do not have any more say on Gandhian socialism. But Gandhiji himself had to withdraw Chauri Chaura movement for which we blamed him.

Therefore, I think it is in the spirit of our nation today, to make an appeal like this to the Prime Minister to pass a Resolution to that effect.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARII BAIG (Betul): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Bhartiya Janta Party, I would like to make it clear before all the hon. Members of this House that our party has always been in favour of the elections. We are not against elections in Punjab provided it is a free and fair election in which one may cast one's vote fearlessly. But in the present circumstances, is a fair and free election possible in Punjab? Is there any one who in view of the present conditions in Punjab feels honestly that an election in the real sense of the term may be conducted there? I would like to say to the Congressmen who repeatedly blame us as having an anti-election view, that they should see it first that no elections have been held for the last 18 years within their own party. Hence a party which has not been able to maintain the spirit of

democracy within its own organisational set up, has no right to advocate the cause of democracy. On the other hand, our party is the only Indian political party which has held its organisational elections regularly.

So, we have been and are in favour of elections.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the country is suffering from Mandal Commission and Mandir construction, we are here today to discuss the Resolution which has been brought by the hon. Home Minister and most reluctantly all political parties, both in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, have unanimously passed it before it went to the President.

I would not like to repeat those points which have been said by various other Members. Since the hon. Prime Minister is going to intervene in this debate, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly tell us about the change in situation after his Press Conference which he held on board the aircraft. He said: we would like that when we ask for extension by six months, we could also give a date for the election. Of course, he kept his door open. He said: we would like to declare. I would like to know from him: what are the difficulties that arose in between, that you have not been able to declare an election date? If you are going to have elections within six months, I would like to know whether your letter to our President, about the views of CPI, CPI(M) and BJP are correct, or what they are saying in the House, and the explanation given by Mrs Geeta Mukherjee and the hon. Members of the BJP are correct. Let us know. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:
Our stand is also clear.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:
No; your stand is not clear. What

you said on the floor of the House is clear, but not the letter we have got from the Prime Minister of the country. This Prime Minister is a paying guest Prime Minister. He is at the mercy of the BJP and the Left parties. (Interruptions) One of parties has already given notice, till 30th October. The other is also thinking in such terms. When they speak privately in the lobby, the assessment that we get about this Government is quite different from what they speak in the House.

On Monday, 29th January 1990, nominations were made to the Consultative Committee constituted under the Punjab State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1987. The hon. Speaker nominated some members. Till today, the Home Minister has not had the time to call a meeting of this committee. You, as Prime Minister, said you wanted to have all the political parties together, to create a situation in Punjab so that free and fair elections could be held. It is a very good attitude. But what is the action taken? You yourself have formed the Consultative Committee with the help of the hon. Speaker, in January. Today we are in October. From January to October, you have had time to demote Ministers, you have had time to resign, to get other Ministers resign for you; but you have not had time to call a meeting. I think that either you do not know that there is a committee, or you have kept it in abeyance. I do not expect you being the Prime Minister, that will be the situation. During these ten months, not on a single day was there a meeting of this committee.

Unfortunately or fortunately, I was sometime Minister of State for Home; and in that capacity, I went to Punjab. (Interruptions) I want to know this from the Home Minister: Only yesterday, an industrialist from Punjab came and met me. He said: 'Sir, you went to Amritsar when you were a Minister.' We talked about many things, and at the end he said: 'Sir, some people came and asked me

[Sh. Sontosh Mohan Dev]

to pay R. 20 lakhs, or otherwise to quit Punjab. I decided to close down the business and walk out of Punjab. My friend said: Go to the police station, talk to the Police. The Police are very active now, and they will take action. I went to the police station. As soon as I entered, I started running away from it. I came to my house running back.' I asked him why. He said: 'The man who came and asked for money, he was sitting in the police station, in the chair. He is the O.C., i.e. the in-charge of that police station. Maybe that is an exception. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI (*Sonepat*): What were they doing in Punjab where they were in power there for so many years? At that time, they always adopted an escapist attitude on Punjab issue...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: What I am trying to say is this: I agree this is not the position of the entire Police. 80% or 90% of the Police in Punjab are good.

But one or two persons are there who create such a situation; with the result that they create fear in the minds of the members from Punjab. There is a lot of difference between what I have heard today and what I had heard nine months before. This is the achievement of this august House, this Parliament. I am sure, S. Atinder Pal Singh, when he speaks today, he will speak in a different language after having listened to the other members for six months in this House. They have got certain grievances; they have to be removed. But, unfortunately, no one from Punjab, when he speaks, condemns terrorists and their activities in Punjab. They are in connivance with Pakistan. Nobody condemns terrorist activities in Punjab. I expect that, some one from Punjab when he speaks, at least

should condemn these activities in Punjab.

Before I conclude, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister, when he intervenes, to tell us what actually does he want from the Opposition, that is, the Congress-I. We want to support him; we are supporting him. He was part and parcel of this Opposition when he was Minister. He knows our culture. He knows it very well that in spite of everything, national interest is the main interest. We are totally with you to support you on Punjab or for that matter on any national issue. But for God's sake, don't bring in personal animosity and personal things. You tell us what sort of help do you want from us?

In the past, we had attended some meetings along with other members. Our experience is that whenever anybody spoke, he spoke against the Congress-I. When we are sitting on the same platform, how do you expect cooperation from us? To run government, you have to take decisions. There might be correct decisions, incorrect decisions. Now this is not the time to do mudslinging against each other. This is the eighth time we are extending the President's Rule in Punjab. Let us hope that this will be the last time. This hope and the aspirations of the members will come true only if you and your Home Minister rise above party politics. Extend your helping hand to all the political parties in Punjab—Congress-I, BJP, CPI, CPI(M) and also the Akali Dal and create a situation for holding elections. When we could hold elections in the past, why is it not possible to hold elections again? I think we will be able to hold elections provided all the political parties come together.

I hope, when you reply, at least you will not reply in the way in which you replied in Lucknow, castigating this fellow and that fellow. Kindly rise above party politics and give one speech in this Parliament as the Prime Minister of this country.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BIMAL KAUR KHALSA (Ropar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before coming to power, this Government had made promises in its manifesto that it would solve the Punjab problem on a priority basis. But it did not pay any attention towards this problem even after a period of 10 months in power. I would like to know as to how many more times the President's rule would be extended there and whether the extension of President rule and frequent change of Governors is the only solution to the Punjab problem? During his tenure, Shri Ray Sahib, who was the Governor of Punjab, had stated that there were a handful of terrorists and he would be able to control them completely but while vacating the Governor's office, he had admitted that the Punjab problem could not be solved without dialogue and the bullets might not be its solution. Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Prime Minister as to what are they doing to bring about peace in Punjab and when the elections will be held there as some of the parties are of the view that the election should not be held there until peace is restored there and its problem is sorted out? I would like to say to the Hon. Prime Minister further that these parties such as the Congress, C.P.I., C.P.I.(M) and the B.J.P. do not want the Punjab problem to be solved...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: Until they leave the path of bullets.

SHRIMATI BIMAL KAUR KHALSA: They have been compelled to take up guns in their hands. In fact, it is the Congress which has created this problem, so this party will never co-operate with the present Government in solving the Punjab problem. So, the Government itself will have to be bold enough to take initiative in order to solve this problem. As a first step in this direction, the Government should release all the youths and the religious leaders from the jails at once. I would like to know

the reasons of disturbed conditions in Punjab. In that state, all the bureaucrats right from the Chief Secretary to the level of Tehsildar, are anti-Sikh and anti-Punjab. Therefore, only such officers should be posted in Punjab who have a positive attitude in respect of sikhs and Punjab. That is why the Punjab problem is becoming complicated day by day. I would like to know as to what this Government has done to start the process of healing in respect of the Sikhs, who had been emotionally hurt on account of Operation Blue Star and the 1984 riots. In this regard, they had great expectations from this Government. What steps have been taken by the Government so far to punish the people who have been held responsible for the 1984 riots.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bimalji, please conclude.

SHRIMATI BIMAL KAUR KHALSA: How many culprits have been arrested and punished so far? It is being said that there is not a conducive atmosphere for elections in Punjab as there is no peace in that State. But I would like to know whether there were any instances of irregularities in Punjab during the last elections, and on the contrary, whether there was no disturbance at Amethi in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Bihar. Then why Punjab alone is being disrupted? So, I do not see any reason as to why there cannot be a fair election in Punjab. I request the Government to take initiative to solve the Punjab problem because the Government alone will be responsible for any deterioration in respect of Punjab problem. So the Government should state as to what steps are being taken by the Government to solve the Punjab problem and by what time the Government proposes to hold elections in that State?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kirpal Singhji, I had called your name earlier also and you have already spoken on this issue so please conclude your submission within two minutes.

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH (Amritsar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my friends have requested me to recite an Urdu couplet.

Following is the Couplet:—

“Lootate Agar Khizan Mein to
Kuchh Baat hi Na Thee
Hamko Yeh Ranj Hai Ki, Lote
Hain Bahar Mein.”

We faced a number of atrocities during the regime of these great persons but nobody expressed his grief and sympathy for the innumerable number of women who had lost their husbands.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already said that.

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: An hon. Member, Shri Rangaji has pointed out as to how a dialogue may be initiated with such persons who have approached the U.N.O.? But, have the Government ever thought of the reasons of their approaching that forum? Before blaming them the Government should seriously consider these issues as to why one does not get justice here and one is not rounded up even after committing a number of murders? Yesterday, I brought it to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that at least two hundred persons of five villages in Punjab were brutally beaten up by the Police in their search for some terrorists whereas none of those innocent persons was found to be a terrorist. Many persons residing in towns come to us and complain weepingly that the Police had arrested their children but did not let them know the whereabouts of those children or whether they had been released or killed. When they mete out such a crude behaviour to them, why do they expect that they will remain faithful to them? Moreover, they want the Sikhs to remain loyal whereas they themselves give protection to the culprits. In fact, in their Secretariat there have been many such officers who traded official secrets for foreign goods and used to keep foreign cur-

rency in their houses. It is not a new thing because even in the houses of some of our earlier Prime Ministers, they used to keep foreign currency. In case now this House gives its clearance to this Bill, it will give them another six months' time. So, in this House at present the Prime Minister will have to state as to how long Punjab will remain in the hands of those hungry wolves...*...is responsible for the incidents of violence and blood-shed in that State.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Names will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: For how long the public of Punjab will be left to the whims of those persons and when will an elected Government hold reins of power in Punjab? Is this House ready to approach the terrorists to persuade them to give up their terrorist approach to create a conducive atmosphere for elections there? If such a step is not taken, atleast we should be meted out justice, otherwise, we stand ruined in all respects.

About half of the crop has been destroyed during this rainy season and the procurement agencies are not coming forward to purchase the produce. This has resulted into a heavy loss. Paddy crop was spoiled and now it is sprouting again. The paddy bags stocked in markets have been washed away and F.C.I. or other agencies are not helping the people involved in rice dealing. There is rampant corruption in F.C.I. A bribe of rupees four thousand per truck load of grains is given to F.C.I. Every type of discrimination is being done in Punjab in the matters of sales tax and income tax. The exporters are not getting proper facilities. No Governor or bureaucracy can solve these problems. They have looted us and we do not know how long they will be looting us. Punjab was in the forefront of freedom struggle and has given very

*Not recorded.

good soldiers, technicians, farmers etc, to the nation, which is a record. Why they are finishing them? They do not realise that they cannot be finished...*...used to say that now they are only ten or twenty.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not mention names. Names will not go on records.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: I would like to say that if you have to finish any one of them, you yourself will also have to struggle for it and fight it. Punjab cannot be finished by the conspiracy being hatched against it. It is necessary to win the confidence of the people of Punjab. The people of Punjab have provided the proofs of safeguarding the freedom of the country. Even then if you want to leave the country in the hands of wolves then it will be injustice and discontentment will also arise. This attitude of administration brings in the talk of UNO. I am thankful to you that you allowed me to speak and I would like to request the Prime Minister to announce the date of holding elections in Punjab.

[English]

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (Calcutta South): If we are supporting the extension of the President's rule in Punjab by six months it is because we feel that it is necessary and unavoidable. But we do this with a certain feeling of sadness. Let me mention this to friends from the Punjab that we are not doing this to deny the people in the Punjab the right of democratic elections but this is because the democratic feelings of the people of the Punjab would not be reflected through elections today because of the way the things are happening in the Punjab today. Had there been a proper and democratic atmosphere in the Punjab we would

have supported the holding of elections now.

At the same time, our request to the Prime Minister is this that this six months period will give him a certain breathing space. And it is very important that this six months is utilised in a way which does not make it necessary for you to postpone the elections again for another six months. We have a feeling that when you began this Government you took the right initiative by going to the Sikh temple, by meeting the people which created a lot of expectations. Unfortunately, that momentum has not been maintained. There were some errors of omission and commission. But I am not going into that. Now the minimum which is required for creating a favourable condition is to implement the conditions of the Accord which was made between Rajiv Gandhi and Longowal. We feel also that the people who were responsible for the riots in 1984 should be punished. When on the 2nd of October there was an ugly demonstration in Delhi, that brought back memories in the minds of many people in Delhi to what happened in 1984 because the same people who were involved in 1984 riots were also involved in the 2nd October disturbances this year. Who were these people? Why were they not punished? (Interruptions) I request you to ensure that the criminals who butchered the Sikhs on the streets of Delhi in 1984, should be brought to justice and they should be punished. And a proper climate should be created for holding the elections in the Punjab.

Let me also respond to the point made by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. He wanted to know what the Prime Minister expects the opposition to do(Interruptions) I hope they would stay in Punjab and fight the terrorists and not run away from the Punjab. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did you want time for this?

*Not recorded.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: They are not fighting the terrorists. The important point is to isolate the terrorists. They should be defeated politically. It is true that today they do control a section of the police and bureaucracy. It is also true that they have the coercive power. It is very important for all of us including the Congress to ensure that the terrorists are isolated and the national unity is upheld.

Lastly, in response to the point made by Shri P. Chidambaram that the Prime Minister is taking a self-righteous view of the things,
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You don't have to respond to him.

(Interruptions)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: May I say that Shri Chidambaram himself is guilty of a holier than thou attitude. Can he deny that it was the Congress Party which brought Shri Bhinderwala to politics in order to disrupt the Akali Dal? Can he deny that it was his party, whose Government had attacked the Sikh Temple? Can he deny that it was his party's Government which dismissed the Barnala Government and created the current situation? The present state of affairs in Punjab is a legacy of the misdeeds of the Congress Rule with respect to Punjab. I hope that within next six months conditions conducive to elections would be created with the cooperation of all the parties including the Congress Party and the democratic sentiments of the people of that State would be reflected through elections(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA (Phillaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Punjab has been denied democratically elected Government since 11th

May, 1987 and the President's rule has been imposed there against the will of the people of Punjab. We, the people of Punjab do not want the President's rule there but today.....

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): They are afraid to the statement that the same set of people who were involved in 1984 were also involved in the 2nd October incident. Does it imply that they were involved in 1984 incident, but not in this case?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The people who organised the Sadbhavana Yatra came and created disturbances in Boat Club.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT (East Delhi): Nobody is blaming us for any incident of October 2. Hon. Member is the first man to mention it. As a matter of fact, the Sadbhavana Yatra which the Congress had in Delhi was welcomed by lakhs of people in the whole historic city of Delhi which has a mixed population, welcomed by all castes and creeds. I hope the hon. Member is not irked by response that Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress Sadbhavana Yatra received from the people of Delhi. As far as his observations on 1984 riots are concerned. I will refer to the subject a little later.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

I have lost my voice. I hope you will help me. I am not able to match you in talking. Now, do not allow this atmosphere to be disturbed. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down. Harbajan Lal Ji, you also take your seat. I will call you later on.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA: I feel sorry for the situation prevailing in Punjab and today the whole country is facing the same situation for which only those people are responsible who created it in Punjab. Yesterday, I was going to Mangolpuri to participate in Maharshi Balmiki Jayanti and there I saw the slogans written on the walls in which people were called upon to come wearing the bullet-belt on their necks and shed their blood for constructing the Ram Mandir at Ram Janambhoomi.....
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please speak on Punjab.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA: We, therefore, want that the people of Punjab must be given their constitutional rights..... (Interruptions)
Today the communal forces in Punjab are raising their heads...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Lakha, please take your seat. Please be relevant while speaking on these things and do not widen the scope of your speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Lakha, please take your seat. Please be relevant. Please speak on the subject and do not widen the scope of your speech.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA: The Home Minister had announced that there will be a welfare committee and all the MP's from Punjab will be its members, but I would like to inform you that not a single meeting of the ten Committees on the welfare of Scheduled Caste, of which I am also Member from Punjab, has been held during the last ten months. They say something and do some-

thing else. Therefore, I would like to request the Home Minister that he should assure us that a meeting of MPs from Punjab will be held with the administrators after every three months so that we are able to involve ourselves in the development works of the State. You have said that you want to remove casteism from this country. The Bahujan Samaj Party has decided to root out caste system from this country. There is no communalism in Punjab. Hence, we will not allow anyone to propagate casteism in this country and we warn them that we do not like this and we will make all-out efforts to abolish this system.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Lakha, please conclude.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA: I would like to request the Prime Minister to hold elections in Punjab within six months so that the people of Punjab could get some relief and the Punjab like situation does not develop in whole of the country.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Bhan Lal Ji, it should be on Punjab.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (Faridabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very serious and important matter. Sir, murderous assaults have been made twice on Shri Banarasi Das Gupta had been twice the Chief Minister of Haryana. He was shot at... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not on Punjab.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: He is the Chairman of All India Agrawal Mahasabha. He has been the Chief Minister of Haryana and also a

[Sh. Bhajan Lal]

freedom fighter. The entire country knows, the people of Haryana know(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it is not on Punjab.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: There is deep conspiracy behind this attack. I would like to request the Prime Minister that the matter should be inquired into by the CBI so that people could know the culprits behind this conspiracy. (Interruptions)

CH. RAM PRAKASH (Ambala): People from Punjab are coming here after being uprooted. (Interruptions) Secondly, you should not encourage these people sitting here. These people have ruined our country, this is my submission. (Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I want to thank the hon. Members and all the parties who have extended their support for this constitution amendment. Some of the members were against it also and I would like to say that we are also not very pleased to bring forward this proclamation before the House. Before proceeding further, I would like to make it clear that—because the question has been raised again and again—our supporting parties, the Bhartiya Janata Party and the Leftist Parties are not against holding elections in Punjab. They are in favour of elections. They have not suggested continuance of President's rule in Punjab. There is nothing like that. They have, of course, said that in the present situation we might be able to manage fair and free election ballot process, but atmosphere in Punjab is not conducive for casting votes freely. So elections could not be held for some time, but during this period Government is not sitting idle. We want to take some political initiative and want to present

certain economic programmes, which will save the people there from the sufferings. Along with that we have to be prepared for the imminent dangers from across our borders and we have to strengthen our position. They said that while doing all these things they have to think of the elections. This is their real position and nobody should frequently doubt their intentions in this regard. It is not that they have cancelled the elections. Clearly speaking whatever is the correct position it should be before us, so I want to make this position clear in the very beginning as to how it was decided and why elections could not be held, because some of our honourable Members from Punjab have asked us in this regard. They should know the real situation. We do not want to keep anything secret just to safeguard this Government or for any other purpose. We believe that at times it so happens that we feel the need to peep into our own conscience. When the problem of Punjab or any national problem is confronted by us and at that time while saying something, we must have a national outlook. I feel not only government but we should also feel our own conscience and there is need to think on national level. Honourable Members have rightly said here, as Shri Atinder Pal Singh said and before him Shri Kirpal Singh also said that there was a hope from the present government, and in this context we definitely say that there is surely some decay in the political capital... I am admitting this thing with a heavy heart. We believe that it is much better to speak the truth regarding these matters in the House. It was a chance that a new government came into existence here. At that time Akali Dal and other friendly parties extended a good support to us. In every field there was a good cooperation and there was no hesitation even to the extent of sharing the same platform. Shri Simranjeet Singh Mann also openly supported the National Front Government that time. We had one platform. Though he never came himself but his colleagues used to come,

and we also attended the meetings. In a way, the sikh brethren had a political faith in their hearts. In addition to the speeches delivered there, we moved down on the road and we also got opportunity to mix with them. We observed their sentiments, we met them and when the people of Punjab opened their hearts before us and expressed their sentiments affectionately, there was no question of hesitation. There and then I said that the trust of these people is my security. It was said only on the basis of coming closer to them and rubbing shoulders with them. But all the same I agree that we got the first jolt when the elections were postponed. It is a fact that there was a judgement that the circumstances are not proper yet, but come what may, I want to admit this fact. I would consider it as the greatest mistake of my life that I could not conduct elections there in the first six months. I admit my mistake because it was a chance which would pave a way for elections, further. To err is human, but I would consider it as my blunder that in the first six months of coming to power this government could not hold elections. I present myself before the House for any punishment for this blunder. These words do not come from my lips alone, but I have a tremendous feeling also. It is the result of that. It was as a consequence to that, that the people who were close to us are distancing themselves from us by and by. And this time the situation is such, I feel, that Akali Dal party is not ready to stand by the National Front government but wants to keep itself away.

16.00 hrs.

So it was a decline in our political asset. It has definitely been lost which is a big capital to solve any problem. It is also a fact that, from the point of view of administration, Pakistan is also busy in its activities across the borders and there is no abatement. We shall have to face

this and we have talk to many people with regard to this. It is not that we have neglected this. All the same, it will be sheer injustice to associate all sikh brethren with this. We have made this thing clear many a time that if we make any lapse in it, it will be an injustice. Therefore I regret to say this. Since President's Rule has been extended for six months period in Punjab many a time, there is some kind of doubt in the minds of the people of Punjab. Whether it is previous government or the present one, is this the same six months period? The previous government extended it nearly five times and the present government i.e., we are extending it for the second time. This way it is difficult to create a faith there whether these are the same six months or some other. Today there is need to create confidence among the people with regard to this.

Shrimati Bimal Khalsa Ji has rightly said that it is the right time to do something practical. We can't go a long way only by declaration of intention. He is not so that anything is said for the first time. It is not any attempt. We have done so many things, but now we feel that whatever has been done is insufficient. One thing we want to say definitely that the present Front Government and the other supporting parties had created an atmosphere that every sikh is not looked with suspicion, there is some abatement in this. Whether it is within or outside Punjab, we would like to say definitely that the suspicious about Sikhs and the atmosphere of suspicion has definitely changed now. Though it is not complete, but still a headway is being made. But it was definitely an attempt to create an atmosphere not only in Punjab but in the entire country that we do not suspect Sikh brethren, we trust them, they have sacrificed themselves for this country. They have contributed in the making and upliftment of this country. Whether they fought for independence, their blood was also sacrificed along with those of Hindus.

[Sh. Vishwanath Pratap Singh] nities fought together without any At the time of war, both the commu-discrimination. In order to make the country self-sufficient, whether in the field of agriculture or industry the hard working people of Punjab were in the forefront. Their contribution is very big and this is our greatest hope.

I want to put forth all the different arguments which came across during the course of a discussion on settlement in this regard. First, the circumstances are not such as may favour the announcement of elections. If elections are announced there will be terror, and exodus of Hindu brethren and there will be reaction in the entire country. Then the people will participate in the election on gun point and there may be a proposal to secede from the country, afterwards this problem will be internationalised. All this reflects a definite line of action being pursued which makes us apprehensive. On the other hand it no more remains the rule of the centre, or governor's rule if the President's rule already in force for long is frequently extended and in fact it becomes the rule of Police. Police rule is followed by alienation. After another six months our condition becomes from bad to worse, as the people express. You see the first six months, then second six months' period in the previous governments time and our government. So, that path is totally a blind path and such a situation will arise where there would be no control over the situation, people will be out of control. They say why should they suffer from both sides, why not only on one front. If they think that way there won't be any solution which can lead to any solution. All of us are clear in this that frequent extension of President's rule is no solution. Final solution is that the people are to be taken into confidence and unless the responsibility of Punjab is not shifted on to them in a democratic way there won't be any solution to this problem. This is our firm belief and we are going ahead

in this direction. We took various steps which were in the agenda that time to win the confidence of the people. There was 59th constitutional Amendment that in Punjab, the right of life can be snatched away in case of Emergency. This was a big blow to the people there. We removed that immediately after assuming the office. I think all the army deserters excepting a few have been released. Although there is not total success yet our attempt is that these people should also get some source of livelihood. This was not publicised but many people were in prison against whom there was no sufficient proof. The process was started when Mr. Mukherjee was Governor and these people have been released. There are many more cases also, and it is our duty to look after that. I don't want to make any bargaining by counting these. We have to talk of justice, there can't be any bargaining while doing justice. About compensation we talked in Delhi as well as there. This too has been increased and we feel there is no need to increase it further. Our opinion regarding this is that we have to face the people across the borders strongly and there is no question of compromise. But we shall have to definitely feel the sufferings of the people, and if we look at it, now-a-days it is the two thirdly Sikhs and one third Hindus which are being killed. If we look at the figures of Punjab many crimes are also included. The number of normal crimes has gone down.

It appears that several cases of smuggling and dacoities are also being clubbed with the main problem. We had long discussions with our allies and we have arrived at certain decisions. I am grateful to the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Left parties for their valuable advice in the matter. We have also taken some decisions in our own party and I would like to apprise the House of these decisions. There was a proposal to constitute a State Advisory Council. Before discussing the details of this Council, I would like to put

up a proposal before the House. It may not be possible to take up the proposal for consideration in the House today, but it is very necessary to take it into consideration. The point is that, under the provisions of constitution we can have President's Rule. Under this system, there is no other method through which people could be involved in the running of affairs of the State. Secondly, the situation is such that no elections can be held there now. A solution to the problem has to be found out in between these two situations. No wayout has been given in the Constitution also for this. Of course, there is an Advisory Body, but the point is as to who will have a say in this Body I am not going to cite any isolated case. It is not the case of Punjab alone. Such a situation may also emerge in other States. In such cases we will have no reservation to allow the Constitution of Advisory Bodies. But it will be farcical if we take a decision that no ex-Chief Minister should be taken in such Advisory Bodies. Let us think, if such a provision could be made in the Constitution. Not only the question of Advisory Body, but let there be an Advisory Council which could establish a link with the people in between the President's Rule and holding of elections so that bureaucracy could be alienated from the people and degenerated.

I admit that the administration has to function there under a very difficult situation. The officials perform their duties at the risk of their lives. But the people have their own problems. some wayout has to be thought of as to how we can bring them into the mainstream. There is no immediate solution to this problem in the Constitution. Constitutional experts and scholars will have to be consulted in the matter. A body comprising of the Members of Parliament with more authority could also be constituted. Otherwise, a body could also be constituted comprising of the elected representatives who have been elected in the last elections.

Alternatively, a body could also be constituted in which representatives of the recognised parties in the State could be taken as its members. Whatever might be the composition of the body, it should be connected with the people and also with the President's rule which could provide a link between the people and the administration from time to time. I put it as a proposal before the House whether such a proposition is possible. But under the prevailing circumstances it would be in the fitness of things if an Advisory Council comprising of the hon. M.Ps from Punjab representing the recognised parties in the State could be constituted.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Please do the same for Delhi also.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: One gets encouraged when a proposal mooted receives immediate consent. Had it been so earlier, a body could have been constituted upto now without delay. The body would be empowered to form committees comprising of farmers, traders and ex-servicemen. These committees could be constituted at the district levels and lower levels. I hope, my proposal is acceptable to all.

SHRI M. J. AKBAR: Please do it at the earliest.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: At the same time I would like to state that in order to maintain the credibility of the Government it becomes our duty to enquire into any complaint or incidents of any excesses against the administration. Today, whoever is there in the Government, has to work at the risk of his life. I would never like to underestimate their contribution. If any excesses are committed or any injustice is done to people, justice has to be done so that credibility of the Government is restored and people's morale remains high. There should also be no room for one-sided demoralisation. If people get demoralised then there will not be any wayout.

[Sh. Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

Then comes to question of involving the youth in self-employment schemes. There is a proposal to employ 10,000 youths from the border areas in the task force. It has also been decided to provide a special grant of Rs. 100 crores for being spent on human resource development facilities. Out of this amount of Rs. 100 crores, Rs. 50 crores will be spent on general education, Rs. 25 crores on technical education and Rs. 25 crores on health and medical education in the three border districts of the State so that the youth could entertain some hopes and choose a right path instead of treading on a wrong path.

There is also a proposal to effectively remove the problem of unemployment by creating more employment avenues. There is a proposal to set up a petro-chemical complex and sugar mills in the State. It has also been decided to set up 4 textile mills there. A decision has also been taken to set up National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research at Mohali. Similarly, Research and Development Institute and Re-rolling Industry will be set up at Gobindgarh. A decision has also been taken to set up Research and Development Institute of Electrical Appliances at Rajpura. A Sugar Technology Institute will be opened in the Guru Nanak Dev University and a Residential Complex for the Guru Nanak Dev University will be set up at Jalandhar. It has been decided to complete the construction of the Thien Dam before schedule. At the same time.....

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Is this the much trumpeted package? There is neither will nor wisdom.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Just listen please. Your trumpet has since lost its sound. It has

been decided to recruit 10,000 youth in the Army, Para-military Forces and the Police Force. It has been decided to fence 336 kilometres more stretch of the border. A decision has also been taken to extend floodlights arrangement to a further area of 207 kilometres. It has been decided to provide immigration clearance facilities for incoming and outgoing passengers at Amritsar by providing flight services for Delhi and Bombay.

Problem of water is also there. It has been decided to make further efforts to implement the provisions of the Accord with the co-operation of the State Governments concerned.

I would like to add that one aspect that we often forget is that of the farmers. Punjab is primarily a land of the farmers, a farmer-dominated State and we are doing a lot for the farmers. There are a number of programmes which are directly linked with the welfare of Punjab. Just now an hon. Member raised the issue of paddy. In the Rajya Sabha also Mr. Bhupinder Singh of the Bharatiya Kisan Union raised this issue. We are going to take an early decision in this regard to find some way out to solve this problem. Matters relating to market tax, export tax etc. were also raised. I would not like to give the details in this regard, but I would like to assure that the hardships will be removed.

Shri Rajdev Singh and just now Shri Atinder Pal Singh pointed out that a large number of women have been put behind the bars. These Members also stated that the women lodged in jails did not commit any offence. Shri Rajdev Singh also made a mention of certain laws in this connection. We shall go into the details of such cases and exchange views with others to sort out the problem and see as to what could be done in this regard. We shall make all out efforts to do justice in all matters.

The happenings of 1984 were really sad. Regarding 1984 riots, special courts have been set up to deal with the people responsible for inciting these riots. But the matter is subjudice, hence it would not be proper for me to say something in this regard but justice must be done and the culprits must be punished under the law. We are fully committed to this.

One thing is always said that this problem should be solved. The problem of Punjab can be solved only by tackling the problems of the youth of Punjab and by taking them into confidence. This is the internal problem of our country and it can not be solved without taking the youth of this country into confidence and we shall try our best to win their confidence.

As regards the question of right to work, I would assure the house that we are fully committed to this. We will bring a legislation and mobilise all our resources. The question of right to work would be discussed in a meeting of the National Development Council going to be held on 10-11 October, 1990. The meeting will be attended by all the Chief Ministers and other prominent persons. We will raise this question in National Youth Councils and chalk out a programme to implement it within the existing resources. We are committed to this and will fulfil it. But then do not say that why you have done it suddenly.

[English]

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur). When you are bringing this Bill? Are you going to bring it in the winter session?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Do not blame us that it has been brought suddenly. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANNARDHANAN (Tirunelveli): The cotton growers of Punjab have exported the largest number of bales last year, that is, about five lakh bales in the history of India. The CCI has made huge profit out of it. The former Agriculture Minister had promised that the share of profit would be given to the Punjab growers. Have you done that? Have you got any programme of giving the share of profit, which the Cotton Corporation of India has made, to the cotton growers of Punjab?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Anyway, these are matters of detail. Whatever can be done for the farmers, we shall certainly do. I have made a note of it.

[Translation]

In the end, the honourable members of Congress Party have demanded to declare it a national problem. This is not the problem of any party or of any Government and Congress Party is ready to help in it, we welcome that. We will work together on this matter. We must try to unite all the people in this. We shall not allow any groupism on this problem. As far as the question of unity and integrity is concerned, I have full faith in the people of Punjab. They are patriotic people.

As regards election in Punjab, I have clarified the attitude of our supporting parties. We feel that President's rule is not a solution, instead it will further complicate the situation. We have to proceed towards holding election. In the meantime, we will have to utilise each available day. We should establish contacts with the people and create confidence among them. We should not create any hindrance if the youths of Punjab want to join the mainstream. You can see the file of Atinder Pal Singhji during the period of last Government and if you see my signatures on it now, then you will send me to

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jail. But today we are hearing the same person who was once used to be called dreaded terrorist and exchanging views with him. (*Interruptions*)

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Mr. Prime Minister, I want to make it clear that Atinder Pal Singh was the only accused in this country who duly filed a writ petition in the court and the case initiated by the Congress Government to prosecute Atinder Pal Singh should not be withdrawn but he should be prosecuted. Though Congress Government filed cases against me, even then it could not run. Police cannot stigmatise Atinder Pal Singh as a terrorist, you will have to prove it. What do you say about SP, Patiala who says that a fake encounter would be concocted. What do you say about him who has seized my car? Please clarify it also.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: One day Rajdev Singhji came and while introducing all members, he told that nobody among them have remained in jail less than two-three years. There was no need to see records of Punjab otherwise nothing could have been done in this matter. Democracy has a certain process which is evident here. The hon. Members who have come from Punjab have participated in democratic process there and a way can be found out to settle these problems but President's rule is not the only solution. We will have to hold elections. With these words I conclude my speech. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You have not answered my question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: We condemn the brutal attack on Shri B.D. Gupta and will contact him and arrange for his treatment. Regarding inquiry by CBI the State Government will have to take action first, only then we

can take up the case. Because to maintain inter-State relations it was decided that the State Government would have to request, only then the Centre can take action. If they will request, we will get it enquired by the CBI. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Please get it enquired by the CBI. The Meham case is also pending for the last three months, it should also be enquired soon. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Judge has been appointed for that and we will pass on your request to the State Government. (*Interruptions*)

CH. RAM PRAKASH: Mr. Prime Minister, I had made a request to you about 20-30 thousand families, who have migrated from Punjab due to fear of terrorists. What are you doing for them? They are starving. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 11th May, 1987, in respect of Punjab, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 11th November, 1990."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we have to take up yesterday's unfinished business. Yesterday the Finance Minister said that the decision on Mr. Kuldip Nayyar will be announced today. We want to know

what is the decision. The External Affairs Minister is here. Let him announce the decision today. Mr. Deputy Speaker, please call upon the External Affairs Minister. (*Interruptions*)

16.30 hrs.

RE. ATTENTION AND CARE GIVEN BY THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON TO LATE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA SHRI SBYASACHI MUKHERJEE DURING HIS ILLNESS --A SITTING JUDGE OF SUPREME/HIGH COURT TO LOOK INTO THE FACTS

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you going to make a statement, Mr. Gujral?

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in due deference to this august House and the hon. Members, I have carefully studied the resolution of the Supreme Court Bar Association, which my hon. friend Mr. Chidambaram had placed on the Table of the House yesterday. I have particularly seen its operative part. I have personally met Mr. Venugopal this afternoon. Mr. Venugopal is the President of the Bar Association of the Supreme Court and I have conveyed to him our acceptance of the suggestion made by the Bar Association resolution, viz. that the sitting Judge of the Supreme Court or a senior Judge of the High Court may look into all facts regarding attention and care given by the High Commission to late Justice Mukharjee during his illness and medical care extended to him. Mr. Venugopal, if I may say so, expressed his satisfaction over this and he has agreed that he would be convey-

ing this to the august body of the Supreme Court this afternoon. I have also sought an interview with the hon. Chief Justice this evening and I will convey this to him as well. I may also say so, Sir, that in deference to the respect for late Justice Mukharjee, the Prime Minister himself has spoken to Mrs. Mukharjee and offered her to allot a Government house. Her other wishes are also being ascertained which will be fully met. Thank you very much, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

Submissions

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): Sir, he has no respect for Parliament. We cannot allow this. (*Interruptions*) What about Mr. Kuldip Nayyar's recall? (*Interruptions*) What about Parliament's demand? (*Interruptions*) Sir, let him answer that. (*Interruptions*) Sir, he said about the demand of the Bar Association, it is very well; he said about the requirements of Mrs. Mukharjee, that is also very well, but what about the Parliament's demand? Yesterday every single person including speakers from your party demanded that Mr. Kuldip Nayyar should be recalled. Shri Indrajit Gupta made a suggestion endorsing the views of Mr. Chandra Shekhar of your party who said that Mr. Kuldip Nayyar be asked to go on leave. You promised that it would receive attention. The Finance Minister in the evening said, "the External Affairs Minister is acting up on the suggestion, it is receiving his attention, allow us to take a decision by tomorrow". Now, you come and do not utter a single word about that demand. We want an answer on that, Sir. Is Mr. Kuldip Nayyar being recalled or not? Or is he being advised to go on leave? The Government must take a decision in one of these two things. (*Interruptions*) Otherwise, I move my resolution, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am allowing Mr. Jaswant Singh to speak.

(*Interruptions*)