

18.40 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Murder of Shri H.L. Khera, General
Manager HMT in Srinagar**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Shri, on behalf of my colleague, hon. Home Minister, I would like to make the following statement.

It is with sorrow that I inform the House that Shri H.L. Khera, General Manager, H.M.T. has been murdered by his abductors. His dead body was found around 2.15 p.m. today in Batamaloo area of Srinagar. Hon'ble Members will join me in conveying our condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and to condemn this despicable and cowardly act. I assure the House that every efforts will be made to bring the criminals to book.

The manner in which the crime has been committed following the statement made by Amanullah Khan in New York yesterday reveals a sinister design. As is well-known Amanullah Khan has been allowed to carry on his nefarious activities from his sanctuary in Pakistan for quite sometime. His statement in New York yesterday and the crime committed today show that the misguided secessionist elements in the Valley are acting under instructions received from across the border. This incident coupled with all that Pakistan agencies have been doing in training and arming militants establish the fact that they are actively sponsoring terrorism in adjoining areas of our country.

The State administration is taking all steps for tracing Shri Mushirul Haq, Vice-Chancellor, and his personal secretary for which intensive combing operations and searches have been continuing.

SHRISONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura West): Why is there no condemnation of Pakistan? He himself has said that it is in connivance with Pakistan. Then, why is there no condemnation? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The Prime Minister has already condemned.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: You are giving a statement. This is very sad. The whole House is with you. (*Interruptions*) Some condemnation of Pakistan should be there in the statement. It is going to the Press. Please stand up and say something. This is a weakness of the Government.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The Prime Minister has already condemned. (*Interruptions*) We strongly condemn the actions of Pakistan.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): In this regard, not only Pakistan should be contacted, but the Government of those Members who issued such statement should also told about it (*Interruptions*)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): That should be part of the statement.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: My submission is that they should be arrested and questioned, as I would like to know whether a person who gives such statement outside the country is a citizen of India or not. If he is an Indian citizen, what action is being taken against him?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO (Anantnag): Sir, can I be assured that the dead body will be carried to the place where the widow is now, the unlucky widow to whom this gentleman talked only five days before? At that time, he was in Delhi and she insisted on him not to go to Kashmir. But he went straight from Delhi to Srinagar to join his duty. Kindly make sure that the dead body is carried to Chandigarh where his younger son has joined school only some days before for taking the examination by change of centre and where his widow is. Do not deal with this body the way you have been dealing with the dead bodies earlier. Please make sure that the body reaches Chandigarh itself. The rest we will see tomorrow.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The body is being brought to Chandigarh.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Thungan.

18.44 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1990-91

Ministry of Defence—Contd.

[English]

SHRI P.K. THUNGAN (Arunachal West): Sir, when this Government came to power, everybody thought that there will be something very new and there will be some new direction. But as the general budget itself shows, there is no new direction. Similarly, the Defence budget also shows that there is no new direction or new element except following the policies laid down by the Congress Government and by our leader,

Shri Rajiv Gandhi. They have no new policy or no new direction in this defence sector. I want to pose one question to the hon. Prime Minister. In my constituency, a portion of land has been occupied by China and the people of my constituency and also of Arunachal Pradesh have been demanding time and again to get them vacated so that that land, which is our grazing ground, can be used by our people. I have raised this point earlier also on the Floor of this House when the Foreign Minister of China came here. I would like to know as to whether discussions have taken place on this matter or not so that we can get our land back from Chinese occupation. I would not like to take much of the time. But I would say that our defence preparedness should be, as pointed by our Prime minister, based on national security environment. I do not want to touch upon economic or foreign or diplomatic environment but only on practical environment. I want to ask the Government as to what programmes have they got and what type of weapons and equipments have they got in the border areas where our jawans, our defence personnel are striving hard to save our country. They even have to fight at an altitude of 22000 feet or above. We have a geographical area ranging from a height of 22000 feet up to the sea level. I want to know as to whether we have helicopters which can fly above 22000 feet and whether you have got any programmes in this regard. Do we have enough ration for defence personnel which is lighter and at the same time last for a longer period? It is our experience that in 1962, when Chinese aggression took place, those people used to carry very light rations. This was noticed by the people of Arunachal Pradesh also. They used to spend their days without carrying much of heavy rations. But people from our side had to carry heavy loads of items like rice and other essential items to fight against the enemy. That had created problems and reduced our speed of action. That is why our defence personnel could not fight effectively and we faced unfortunate retreat at that time. I would like to suggest that we should produce such items for defence personnel which can be handled effectively while fighting against our enemy.