

17.21 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Second Report

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): I beg to lay on the Table the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges.

17.22 hrs.

[English]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE .AP-
PROVAL OF CONTINUANCE IN FORCE
OF PROCLAMATION RESPECT OF
PUNJAB

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIA-
MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA
PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Sir, on behalf of
Shri Subodh Kant Sahay, I bet to move:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated 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 May, 1991."

As the House is aware, President's Rule was promulgated in the State of Punjab on 11th May, 1987 on the recommendation of the Governor. The Legislative Assembly of the State which was initially kept under suspended animation was dissolved on 6th March, 1988. The proclamation issued by the President under article 356 (1) of the Constitution was approved by the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 1987.

As the law and order situation in the State continued to be disturbed, President's Rule in Punjab has been further extended from time to time with the approval of both Houses of Parliament. The present term of President's Rule is due to expire on 10th May 1991.

Consequent on the Constitution (Sixty-seventh Amendment) Act, 1990, Clause (4) of article 356 of the Constitution provided that the proclamation issued on 11th May, 1987 in relation to the State of Punjab could be extended for a total period of four years without fulfilment of conditions specified in clause (5) of the said article. As the current law and order situation in Punjab still does not hold out prospects for free and peaceful elections to the State Legislative Assembly, clause (4) of article 356 of the Constitution has been amended by the Constitution (Sixty-eighth Amendment) Act, 1991. With this enactment, President's Proclamation in relation to the State of Punjab can now be extended for a total period of five years.

The Governor of Punjab in his recent report addressed to the President has intimated that a number of counter measures have been taken against the militants which are showing certain improvement in the situation in the State. The Governor is of the view that continuation of present approach for the next few months would help to bring about a situation wherein normal democratic process could be restored in the State. Therefore in order to allow some more time for consolidation of the present gains and bringing about greater improvement in the overall situation, the Governor has recommended extension of President's rule for a further period of six months beyond 10th May, 1991.

Keeping in view the situation prevailing in the State and taking all the relevant factors into consideration, it is proposed that the President's Rule in Punjab may be contin-