

without any check with the result that the residents of Soor Sagar, Kansua localities are living in a hell. Innocent children play in the water polluted with chemicals. While visiting my area, I found that Kota city is becoming a hell for the poor people as the chemicals are causing slow poisoning. I would urge the Government to implement the Pollution Prevention Act more effectively and compel the factories to have treatment plants so that the Bhopal disaster is not repeated in Kota city of Rajasthan due to the effect of chemical substances and gases. So, the Government should intervene and save this city from becoming a hell.

13.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha Adjourned for lunch till
Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch
at fourteen minutes past Fourteen of the
Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P Chidambaram will make a statement on behalf of S. Buta Singh.

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STATEMENT RE : DISSOLUTION OF
PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, as the House is aware, on the recommendation of the Governor of Punjab, President issued a proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Punjab on 11th May 1987. the Legislative

Assembly was kept under suspended animation. Though the Proclamation was extended for a further period of six months by a Resolution of Parliament, the position of the assembly remained the same.

The imposition of President's rule brought about a distinct improvement in the situation in Punjab. The fundamentalist campaign launched by the extremists in the garb of social reforms petered out. Secessionist utterances of Ragis and Dhadis stopped. Migration of Hindus from Punjab was checked and, in fact, a large number of families which had migrated out of Punjab started returning to the State. There has, however, been considerable rise in the number of extremist incidents since the end of last year. The Government has studied the situation and discussed this with the State Government to evolve a proper strategy to tackle this rise in extremist violence.

The Governor of Punjab has reported that one of the major hindrances in the effective and efficient working of the police and para-military forces is interference from members of the Legislative Assembly. The Governor has observed that there are numerous reports that many members of legislature not only attempt to interfere, influence and prevent the police action but also threaten police officers of dire consequences in the future if they failed to obey their commands. In fact, the Governor has reported that such threats and interferences affect the tempo of police work and have adversely affected action against terrorists, smugglers and other criminals.

The incident in village Sahari in District Hoshiarpur on the night of 3rd March shows the extent to which the terrorists are determined to go. About 8 to 10 terrorists came to this village around 11.30 p.m. on 3.3.1988 and began to fire indiscriminately on the big gathering at a religious place, killing 10 persons on the spot and injuring 52. subse-

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

quently, 7 persons out of the injured also succumbed to their injuries taking the total death toll to 33. The terrorists attempted to separate the members of the Sikh community with a view to kill the other members of the congregation but people belonging to all three faiths Hindu, Sikh and Muslim stood together and made clear their intention to die together, if necessary. I am proud to say that the nobility of the human spirit and the brotherhood of man which found expression in village Sahari can never be vanquished. I am sure that this august House will pay its tribute to the brave, patriotic and secular people of Punjab and, in particular, village Sahari. The incident is all the more reprehensible because it took place on the day the Government set in motion the process of finding a solution to the Punjab problem by releasing the five High Priests and 40 undertrials from Jodhpur prison. It shows that the terrorists can go to any extent in their attempts to thwart Government's initiative to find a solution to the Punjab problem.

I am sure that this House will join me in condemning the dastardly acts of violence which create disaffection and misunderstanding among different sections of society and in conveying our deep sympathies to the bereaved families. The Government is determined to stamp out terrorism. At the same time, I would appeal to all communities and all sections of public opinion to work together to foil the evil designs of the terrorist and anti-national forces.

In these circumstances, it is of utmost importance that terrorist actions are combated effectively and the Police is allowed to function with full effectiveness. It has been assessed by the Governor of Punjab that there is no likelihood of the emergence of any effective, stable or responsible Government committed to the cause of removing terrorism out of the present Legislative Assembly. The Governor has concluded that the Assembly's further continuance would

be both purposeless and futile. He has, therefore, recommended dissolution of the Punjab state Legislative Assembly with immediate effect. The President has accordingly issued an order under Article 174(2)(b) dissolving the Punjab State Legislative Assembly with immediate effect.

Government also propose to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in the current session of Parliament of facilitate extension of President's rule in Punjab as and when necessary. Government have undertaken an examination of Article 352 and related provisions of the Constitution in their application to Punjab. Government also propose to amend the Constitution suitably in respect of emergency provisions in their application to Punjab. Government however, wish to make it clear that the amendments relating to emergency provisions will apply only to Punjab and the existing provisions of the Constitution (Article 352 and related articles) will continue to apply in the rest of the country.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There was no justification

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Statement made by Minister Regarding Dissolution of Punjab Legislative Assembly

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion on the Statement made by the Minister regarding dissolution of Punjab Legislative Assembly. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the agony of the Punjab which has been continuing for so many years is something which has been