

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

rupees under this very programme have been sanctioned just within one year but the areas falling within my constituency have not been allocated even lakhs of rupees under this programme in the current financial year. It is well known that according to the fixed norms for allocation of funds, the most developed area should have been provided less funds, but here the situation is just the reverse. I doubt that such discrimination will also take place in the selection of districts for the 'Nehru Rozgar Yojna'.

I would like to request the Ministry of Agriculture that poor, backward, undeveloped, pre-dominately tribal, border, hilly, plateau and desert areas should be selected under 'Nehru Rozgar Yojna'.

12.25 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

REPORTED NEXUS BETWEEN AFGHAN REBELS AND TERRORISTS IN PUNJAB—*CONTD.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, further discussion under Rule 193 on the situation arising out of the reported nexus between Afghan rebels and terrorists in Punjab raised by Shri Bhagat. Shri Somnath Rath.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all know that terrorists in Punjab are getting assistance freely in the form of training, funds, arms and ammunition, etc. from foreign agencies. As far as Afghanistan is concerned, the stand of India is very clear. India wants the problem of Afghanistan to be decided by the people of Afghanistan themselves without any foreign interference. The agreement reached at Geneva should be implemented and respected by all people and the problem should be solved. A nexus between the

Afghan rebels and terrorists in Punjab had come to light from some sources. The sources said that Gulbuddin in a message has said "some of our brothers were active with Punjab terrorists." The Present Government of Pakistan has plans to stop these rebels and arrest those who are active. He asked them to be cautious. But the next point is most important. The message records the great support they had received from Zia-ul-Haq and describes the former President of Pakistan as the saviour of Muslims. One of our friends hon. Member Shri Thomas has said that the relations between India and Pakistan during the Janata Party regime were good. But this message discloses how the then President was acting against the interest of India. The Thakkar Commission Report on the assassination of former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi also mentions about the hand of foreign agency in helping those people who are engaged in destabilising India *inter alia* inspiring, encouraging, assisting and training the terrorists. Now, the Special Investigating Team in India has brought out how the conspirators, who are terrorists, have desired not only to murder Shrimati Indira Gandhi, but also to destabilise this country by creating confusion and also communal riots throughout the country. Under these circumstances, we should be very-very careful. There is an improvement in the Indo-Pak relations following the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Islamabad. Yet the horizon is not clear. Pakistan is developing nuclear power which is weapon oriented and the Government there seems not that powerful and the Army in that country seems to have the upper hand. In the spirit of reconciliation, the visits of our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to Islamabad and China were most important. The future stability in the region is also most important. The British Foreign Secretary when he came to India had said that firm steps would be taken to check Sikh terrorists operating in Britain. It is a shared concern of British and Indian Governments. Under these circumstances—today it has come out in the Press—if the United States is going to upgrade the military force in Pakistan by rearming them, with modern sophisticated

arms and ammunition, the arms may fall into the hands of these Afghan rebels, supplied by U.S.A.

It may be channelised to the terrorists in Punjab. Under these circumstances, I would urge the hon. Minister, through you, that India should be very conscious about it. The Afghan rebels have already said that our pilots are helping the present Government over there. Of course, it was denied by Islamabad. So, we should not be very complacent about the situation that is now created because of the Afghan rebels having a nexus with the terrorists in Punjab which has given rise to many problems not only in Kashmir but also in the whole country. It is a part of the game that is going on in the country prior to the assassination of Indira Gandhi. There seems to be a plot, the divisive forces in Jammu & Kashmir have come out to surface again to play the same role. So, in this hour of anxiety the Government should take stern steps to put an end to all these divisive forces, the persons who are out to destabilise our country and create chaos and confusion in the country.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Before coming to the point, I would like to say that our policy with the neighbouring countries is not clear. Our Prime Minister had a lot of discussion at the SAARC meeting. Our Prime Minister is moving all over the world and a lot of things are published. As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, as far as Pakistan is concerned, as far as Nepal is concerned, as far as Afghanistan is concerned, we may be honest in dealing with these nations. But everywhere problems are created for our country. India is the only country in the world, apart from Soviet Union, who is supporting Mr. Najibullah of Afghanistan. It is a democratic Government over there; it is a Government by the people. Morally, we may be correct. But, except India, all other eastern and western nations are supporting the rebel Government there in order to achieve their selfish motive. If that is so, then we are just side-tracked. The rebel leader, Mujahuddin, is charging our Government that we are giving Pilots and military aid to Afghanistan.

It may be a frustrated statement, we have never denied that; and we are just supporting the Government there.

After the Geneva Accord, the Soviet Union was honest to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan. But the United States are giving military aid and supporting the rebels. The Pakistan Government are also having their regular base over there and are giving them military aid and creating such problems. But our Government is following a consistent policy to support the Najibullah Government; that is the only thing that is helping in maintaining peace, as far as possible, all these days. Therefore, our policy must be made clear as to how we are going to deal with the situation over there.

As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, morally we are correct that we are helping them in establishing a democratic Government over there. But at what cost? We have lost about 800 soldiers so far over there. We had not lost that many soldiers when we had wars with China and Pakistan. You are not giving us a figure, but we have spent about Rs. 2000 crores for fighting that war. In the last two months, we have lost about 15 soldiers. Whom are you killing there and for what purpose? The Sri Lankan Government is happy that we are trying to establish democracy over there. In Sri Lanka they are saying that India is helping them to establish democracy. Similarly in Afghanistan also you are giving moral support to have a democratic set up, but I do not know how you are going to deal with all such matters in your foreign policy.

Coming to certain other things it is clear that there is a nexus between the Afghan rebels and the terrorists in Punjab. It has come in the Press. It has not stopped there. But they say in their statement that "their brothers" are active helping the Punjab terrorists. They are giving directives to the Afghan nationals in India. They further say that they got help from Pakistan in the time of the late President Zia-ul-Huq. It is very important.

[Dr. Datta Samant]

There are United States bases in Pakistan. I do not think that even Pakistan has got any control over them. They have always been there in Pakistan, and as far as India is concerned they are going to play havoc not only with one State but others also. If that time comes they may play havoc with Pakistan also. Therefore, it is a serious situation, arising out of what is happening at present in all those border areas.

The Government must be having the news that the Khalistan people thanked their various supporters abroad because they are given asylum in those countries. Recently it has come in the Press; I do not know the details but in Burma and some neighbouring countries some people are being given passports to come to India to create trouble. All such developments are reported. Kashmir also is not away from Afghanistan and it is likely that some problem is going to be created there also. Recent development in Kashmir especially what has happened in the last two or three days show this. It is very near Afghanistan and I am sure that there must be some links between all those things.

I am asking the Government how they are going to deal with all these problems. With Sri Lanka our relations are spoiled. With Nepal also we have spoiled our relations. That is exactly what I want to point out. It is not only the question of terrorists and law and order. Government has to deal with all such policies of this country and I think we are immature as far as our dealing with the neighbours, or our relations with them. So, I want to know what the Government is going to do.

Sir, the Thakkar Commission has said it very clearly, I am quoting:

"Mrs. Indira Gandhi was following an independent foreign policy which was not to the liking of many foreign countries. She was firm and unyielding in her attitude towards world powers. Her physical removal from the scene may

be needed by some countries. A great deal of material has been gathered by the investigating agency to show that a foreign agency has played a role by inspiring, encouraging, assisting and training the terrorists.

The Commission is of the opinion that a foreign agency had indeed played such a role."

This is very important in our dealing with the terrorists. Our Prime Minister has visited the United States and met President Reagan. But everything is coming to this state that they helped in the assassination of our Prime Minister. I think the time has come when we should review our policies. You may be honest and good. But I think tactlessness in getting intelligence and conducting our foreign policy is creating trouble. I appeal to the Government to change the policy and deal with some more intelligence when it comes to these Afghan rebels and the terrorists. I hope that the Minister will keep this in while replying to this debate.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE
(Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when Shrimati Benazir Bhutto won the elections in Pakistan and democracy was restored there, it was hoped by the masses in India that terrorists will not get help from Pakistan now, as good relations have developed between Shrimati Benazir Bhutto and Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

We have the democratic form of Government in our country and now Pakistan is also having the same form of Government. I would like to bring it to your notice that one more power is gaining ground along with this democracy and you should be ware of it. Terrorists in Punjab are getting the same help from the other side of the borders of Pakistan and Afghanistan, as it was provided by General Zia to Mujahideens. Drug and free arms are being smuggled into India on a very large scale

I would like to draw your attention to an important issue. There was a news in the press. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the factual position in regard to the news given by Hikmatyar? Whether it is true that the intelligence agency of Pakistan is helping in strengthening the nexus of terrorists of Punjab and Afghan rebels. Whether the intelligence branch of our country had received this news before hand and if so what action was taken by the Government in this regard. This matter should be considered seriously. Such a situation shall endanger not only the security of India but that of Pakistan and Afghanistan also.

At the time of Geneva Agreement, it was agreed upon by Shri Gorbachov and Shri Reagon that by 15 February, 1989 all the Russian troops will withdraw from Afghanistan. In the meanwhile, Russia had withdrawn all their troops from that country. It was one of the points of the agreement that Pakistan will not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. But it is a matter of regret that Pakistan is not going on the lines of the agreement. We should take stern action to check the smuggling of drugs and free arms, from Pakistan. It will pose a serious threat to our country, if it is not checked in time. The intelligence Bureau should also pay more attention to it.

It is shameful that one of the Members of the Upper House went to America in 1987 and gave a T.V. interview there. The Government of Pakistan bore all the expenses incurred on the programme. After the interview, one muslim leader said that in India, Khalistan will come into existence in 1990 and the Prime Minister will be assassinated. I would like to suggest that in case a responsible Member of Parliament indulges in anti national activities or in some conspiracy against his country abroad, he should be declared disqualified. For this purpose, if the Constitution is required to be amended, it should be done. Such a provision is necessary in the interest of the country. As you have provided rules and regulations in the Sati Prohibition Act in respect of the glorification of Sati, identical provisions should also

be made in this amendment. Who is ** is not ** but he is a big ** Members of Rajya Sabha call him ** but I instead of calling I him ** want to call him ** He is a big Capitalist who when in foreign, speaks against his country. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, she is mentioning the name of a Member of the other House.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Shri Dattaji, this is not a political question. It concerns the country. Shri Datta Samantji, this is not related to any of us. We are talking about the country. Not only ** but any responsible Member who goes to a foreign country and hatches conspiracy against his country which is later on substantiated, it is necessary for the Government to disqualify him. Amendments should be made in the constitution for this purpose. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. DUTTA SAMANT: I am on a point of order. It should go out of the record because she is talking the name of the Member of the other House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will examine the record.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am saying any of the responsible Members. He should be disqualified, if the Government can prove it. A number of amendments have been made in our constitution, many important things have been done. So I would like to know the reasons for which an amendment can not be made in the present case though the integrity of the country is at stake and also the Hon. Prime Minister's life is in danger.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

Yesterday, Shri Thampan Thomas spoke on ** and also spoke against Shri Dhawan. Shri Thomas is not present here, but I would like to submit that Shri Dhawan and ** are not the same. Shri Dhawan is a loyal man of late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, he is loyal to the country and ** only speaks against the country. He is loyal to foreign countries, but not to his country.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT: This should not go on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not mention these names. Names will not go on record.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: If you go through the record, then their speeches should also be expunged because they have also mentioned the names. That is why, I am mentioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even then you should not mention the names.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I have to speak. I started it because it is an important issue and so it is necessary to tell, but Shri Datta Samant has no consideration of all these things.

The continuing nexus between the Afghan rebels and the terrorists of Punjab is a matter of grave concern. It cannot happen that way, if our Intelligence Branch is a bit alert. Such things can be sorted out through negotiation between the Governments of the two countries i.e. Government of India and Government of Pakistan through I.S.I. Shrimati Benazir Bhutto cannot help much, as her political life is not stable as yet. In Pakistan as well as in India the position is the same. I would like to request the hon. Minister to pay more attention to it.

[*English*]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): I have listened very patiently to this discussion. I am afraid, our discussion has been long on words and short on facts. The subject of the discussion is a possible nexus between the Afghan Mujahideen and the Punjab terrorists. But the speakers have painted a very wide canvas. We have discussed practically everything under the Sun from the civil war in Afghanistan to the misdemeanour and anti-national activities of some individuals. We have discussed relations of India with USA, with USSR, with Afghanistan, with Pakistan, with practically all our neighbours. We have discussed the situation in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. We have discussed anti-Sikh riots of 1984 and even Shahbano's case. But we have lost sight of the background of the situation in Afghanistan.

There is today a growing convergence between the global interest of USA and USSR. There is also the possibility of reconciliation between Pakistan and USSR. There is the interaction if I may say so, between the charm of Benazir Bhutto and the grace of Rajiv Gandhi. I do not know whether it is *vice versa*. We have to take into account the emerging scenario in Afghanistan and perhaps, the way we have mismanaged our own internal affairs.

Many a speaker have pointed at the foreign hand. There is a continuing presumption of the operation of the foreign hand in our body politic. Without discounting the possibility of foreign powers trying to fish in our troubled waters, may I say that as a nation we seem to suffer from siege complex even amounting to a persecution mania? We forget that sometimes we have behaved in a manner that we ourselves have become the biggest destabilisers of our own system, of our own polity. As a nation, we must have the confidence that no one, no power on earth can destabilise our country, if we are politically mature, if we are economically advancing and if we are socially integrated.

Afghanistan is a milestone in the contemporary history. It was under military occupation of a super power for over a decade and this super power has been forced to withdraw. That immediately reminds us of the USA debacle in Vietnam. This withdrawal of the Russian forces from Afghanistan is a victory for the spirit of freedom. Afghanistan, unfortunately, is still in a state of civil war and they are paying, and perhaps shall pay, a heavy price till peace dawns on that benighted land. Unfortunately, through our diplomatic failures, we have been identified with the purposes of the USSR in that country. We have been marginalised in a country where our voice should count. We seem to have missed the bus. We seem to have lost the capacity to influence the course of events. But we have got to live with the Afghanistan of tomorrow. We have permanent interest and the permanent interest is the continuing friendship and cooperation between the people of Afghanistan and the people of India. I am afraid, there are some forces which do not perhaps desire any conciliation between these two great peoples. Perhaps they do not want a tomorrow of friendship and cooperation to dawn. A time has come, therefore, in my view, when the Government should review its policy towards Afghanistan and at least try to establish a dialogue with the side which is going to emerge as the Government of tomorrow.

There is a dichotomy between the Government of Pakistan and the armed forces of Pakistan, which we should not fail to take advantage of. There is a contradiction between the Government of Pakistan and the Afghan Mujahiddin. Sir, you will be surprised to know that Hikmatyar, who was supposed to be very close to Zia-ul-Haq, has not even met Benazir Bhutto since she came to power.

There is arms running, no doubt about it—I am coming to the subject—perhaps across all international frontiers and there is arms running across the Indo-Pakistan border. Water flows downhill. If there is a demand, there is a supply. There are smugglers, commercial interests, foreign agents,

anti-Indian forces trying to help it. But what happens to our capacity of interception. That is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Do you justify supply of arms from Pakistan?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I do not justify. I am only stating that we do not live in a vacuum, we live in a world of evil. The evil is there. What are we doing to counteract that? Where is the capacity of the Government to intercept this flow of arms which may be coming from any source?

About the Hikmatyar statement, I am happy that Miss Mamata Banerjee, our colleague, has raised an important question. We should look at it closely to find whether it is an authentic statement. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us whether he has applied his mind and whether the Government has applied all the investigative resources at its disposal to establish whether it is an authentic statement. As I read it, I do not see the source. For example, I find that normally in such despatches the words used are "According to reliable sources". PTI simply says: "According to sources". Which source? What is the source? Then, I find it rather strange that Hikmatyar should tell his Indian unit about the activities of his brothers in Punjab. It is a peculiar sort of an Indian unit which does not know what Hikmatyar's brothers are doing in Punjab. I doubt an Indian unit exists, or is the Indian unit is totally uninformed about its principal activities. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the extent of the aid and assistance given by the Afghan Mujahiddin directly to the terrorists in Punjab. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have been able to identify this 'Indian unit' and this 'our brothers' and what steps have the Government taken not only to intercept the supplies, if there are any, but also to bring to book this 'Indian unit' and this 'our brothers' who are obviously acting against our interests and in contravention of the laws of the land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, the Government have taken note of the news item which appeared on the 29th March, 1989 and which has given rise to this brief discussion on the possible nexus between the Afghan rebels and the terrorists in Punjab. Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Members expressed yesterday and today. I would urge the hon. Members to take a close look at the report. There are some significant statements, significant words in the report. Firstly, Sir, the report is clearly anti-Benazir Bhutto. It accuses and I quote:

"The present Government of Pakistan has plans to stop these channels and organise those who are active."

The last paragraph is equally significant. It says:

"The message recalled the great support they had received from Zia-ul-Haq and describes the former Pakistan President as a saviour of Muslims".

So clearly this report reflects an internal conflict in Pakistan involving the forces which still continue to reflect the policy which was pursued by Gen. Zia-ul-Haq and which are opposed to Benazir Bhutto Government. Presently, I will share with you my impressions as to why this force is against Ms. Benazir Bhutto and her Government.

For the present, my endeavour is to emphasise that this report reflects an internal conflict which is going on in Pakistan, perhaps even within the Government of Pakistan, perhaps even among the agencies and instrumentalities of the Pakistan Government. Sir, we are aware that there have been some contracts between the extremists who are operating in Punjab, not the terrorists themselves, but their the mentors abroad and the Afghan Mujahideens Government have information that in 1985, some Sikh extremists came into contact with

Afghan Mujahideens in the United Kingdom. Similarly, in 1986 also, some Sikh extremists and so called Afghan freedom fighters came into contact with each other in the United States. Obviously, there is contact between the two groups in the matter of purchase of arms. In fact, we have reports that in December, 1987 the extremists groups operating in Punjab may have through their own sources attempted to purchase 'stinger missiles' from the Mujahideens. There are some reports that a very small number of 'stinger missiles' had been purchased but there is no information that such missiles have come into India. While there is some contact between the Sikh extremists and the Afghan Mujahideens, I do not think that the report is correct in so far as it says that there is an Indian unit of His be Islami. We have no evidence of such a unit operating in the Indian territory.

13.00 hrs.

So, some time ago a report appeared that a letter had been written to the Islamic Party of Afghanistan an Afghan group which was active in India and the name of Ali Khan was mentioned. But Ali Khan himself denied the receipt of such a letter. It is true that there are Afghans in India who come as refugees... (*Interruptions*) But we have no evidence that any Afghan refugees are active in the Indo-Pak border. I think it is wholly incorrect to say that any of the Afghan refugees here in India as refugees have any role in either any activity of the Indo-Pak border or any terrorist activities in the Punjab. Here I wish to take the opportunity to re-state, if I may, our policy in the matter of Afghanistan, and I am reading from an official document issued by the External Affairs Ministry when they had to contradict certain reports which appeared in foreign newspapers that Indian Military Advisers had reached Afghanistan, it is as follows:-

"India has no military cooperation with Afghanistan and all reports suggesting presence of Indian military advisers in Afghanistan or Indian airforce pilots in that country are motivated, false,

propagandistic and baseless."

"...We favour immediate cessation of bloodshed in Afghanistan and believe that the people of Afghanistan themselves should be allowed to determine their own future without external intervention or interference and taking into account the existing realities and the legitimate interest of all concerned. India has always stood for a sovereign non-aligned, independent Afghanistan and we hope that peace and normalcy can be restored as early as possible."

Notwithstanding our position, which is a principled position, reports have appeared from time to time, attributed to the Mujahiddin that Indian Military Advisers are advising the present regime in Kabul. Perhaps as a rejoinder to such alleged involvement, reports also appear that the Afghan Mujahiddin had nexus with terrorists in India and they are helping terrorists in India. The first is clearly untrue. On the second we are satisfied that there is no such Indian unit in India working with the terrorists in Punjab.

Sir, from time to time, in this House, we have shared information about the involvement of Pakistani agencies with terrorists in Punjab, particularly during the regime of Zia-ul-Haq. In fact, Sir, you will recall that on the 2nd of August 1988, the Government placed a statement before this House in which we stated, and I quote:

"A recent review shows that Pakistan's role in providing guidance, material assistance and sanctuaries for the terrorists has not undergone any change. Many of the terrorist leaders have made several visits to Pakistan. From the rank and file of the terrorists too a large number have been to Pakistan at some stage or the other. The extremists have received directions from Pakistan that notwithstanding the pressure on them from the Indian security forces they should continue committing terrorist crimes in Punjab

and other parts of India including bomb explosions and attacks on Hindu temples, elimination of Sikhs in the Congress (I) party—and other parties—and attacks on pickets of security forces to demoralise them."

Sir, a reference has been made to the role and activities of ISI (Inter Services Intelligence) which is an agency in Pakistan. The ISI has contacts with a variety of forces. One is, obviously the Afghan Mujahideens and for that, there is plenty of evidence. The ISI has also been supporting certain forces which bring in arms into Punjab. ISI has also been noticed for being involved in running training camps in Pakistan for the terrorists who are inducted into Punjab. The ISI has also connection with JKLF in Kashmir. Therefore, if links have developed between JKLF and the terrorists Punjab or the Mujahideens, the links, we think, are not direct links but links through the ISI. Government have closely watched the activities of ISI. We have enough evidence to state that ISI—at any rate during Gen. Zia-ul-Haq's regime—was actively involved in helping terrorism in Punjab and the activities of the JKLF in Jammu & Kashmir. It is possible that these forces have developed some kind of links with each other. But as I said, a little while earlier, these links are through the ISI. After Ms. Benazir Bhutto became the Prime Minister of Pakistan, we have reason to believe that she has taken some measures to curtail the powers and activities of ISI. We know that the political wing of the ISI has since been dissolved. The question whether any remarks still continue to be active, is a matter we have to watch—wait and see. We have reason to believe that a squeeze has been put on the activities of ISI and as a result of this squeeze, perhaps the ISI itself is sending out messages to various forces with which it has links.

Sir, reference was made by Mr. Bhatia and some other hon. Members to a meeting in U.K. on the 25th March, 1989. This meeting was called by Jagjit Singh Chauhan. It has attended by some representatives of Afghan rebels who are based in U.K. A

[Sh. P. Chidambaram]

resolution was passed, as Mr. Bhatia said. The resolution according to our information thanked the Amnesty International and some U.S. Congressmen for raising the issue of alleged violation of human rights in the Punjab. There is no evidence to show that the resolution thanked any Government of any country as much. There was another rally in London on 16th October, 1988. This rally was also organised by supporters of Azad Kashmir, Muslim Conference, JKLF and Jagjit Singh Chauhan. 25 Sikh extremists leaders and 5 members belonging to the Afghan Mujahideens were also reported to have participated in the rally. Obviously, there is some orchestration in England particularly by Jagjit Singh Chauhan to bring together these groups which are operating in different areas and, therefore, Government will continue to keep a close watch over their activities. We shall take whatever steps are to be taken to ensure that these activities do not contribute or cause to the break down of law and order or to the rise of terrorism in India.

Although this particular discussion is confined to Punjab, we cannot quite divorce what is happening in Jammu & Kashmir and what is happening in Punjab because the couriers and carriers operate in both parts of the country. We know that ISI is helping to induct saboteurs and terrorists into JKLF. Some saboteurs may come through Jammu & Kashmir into Punjab. Therefore, we are keeping a very careful watch on both the JKLF in Jammu & Kashmir and the terrorists in Punjab.

When I made the statement on the 2nd August, 1988 I shared with this House quite a lot of information particularly documentary evidence. I wish to take this opportunity to share one more document. On the night of 15-16 March, 1989 in one of our BOPs in the Kemkaran area, two intruders who crossed over to Pakistan were killed. A letter written in Gurumukhi on the pad of the so called Panthic Committee was recovered. This letter is written by Warsan Singh Zaffarwal to Shri Gurbachan Singh Manocha Lal. I have with me a translation into English of this letter and I wish to read portions of this letter which will indicate the kind of support these people are receiving from certain forces in Pakistan. I read:

"Last time, when Shri Rajiv Gandhi visited Pakistan, he had a long discussion with Shrimati Benazir Bhutto.

Shrimati Benazir Bhutto agreed to close the training camps which were established for imparting training to Sikhs in Pakistan. Rangers have also been instructed not to provide facilities to Sikhs as were given earlier"

references to Pakistan Rangers which is a corresponding forces of BSF.

"Thus we would be facing difficulty in transporting weapons from across the border. As a result of this agreement, there will be the greatest setback to our struggle for the cause. As long as there is no clear policy defined by Benazir Bhutto, Sikhs should not be sent to Pakistan. Now we may have to kill both Rajiv Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto."

It is not a matter to be laughed at. It is a matter of concern.

This is the kind of threat that we face. The point I am trying to say is that the contents of this letter more or less tally with the contents of the report except that, instead of Rangers you substitute Afghan Mujahideens. I would, therefore, tend to look at this news report not as referring to Afghan Mujahideens. The origin of this reprint is not Afghan Mujahideens but perhaps their mentors and friends in the Pakistan system. The warnings may be true. But the warning has not come from Afghan Mujahideens to the so called unit in India. The warning is perhaps from the mentors of Afghan Mujahideen in Pakistan to those who they have been helping in Punjab.

We have taken note of the activities of the ISI, particularly its activities in the past. We have also taken note of what Prime Minister Bhutto is trying to do. She faces considerable difficulty. But, we hope she will be able to obtain full control over the various agencies that are operating in Pakistan.

Sir, the Government thanks Shri B.R. Bhagat for highlighting this issue. We are very concerned about that. As I have said already, we have as much information as is necessary. Our investigative agencies and our intelligence agencies are very alert. We shall do all that is necessary and possible to ensure that foreign agencies and foreign forces do not play a role in India directly or indirectly to destabilise India.
