

[Sh. Rajiv Gandhi]

also expanding employment opportunities in rural areas, it is necessary to encourage agro-based industries, particularly food processing. A special extension and infrastructure package is being put in place for the development and processing of fruits and vegetables in suitable areas. Also, incentives are being given to industrial units to enter into contracts with small producers individually or through cooperatives. For the diversification of rural economic activity, Fish Farmers' Development Agencies are being established in all coastal districts to encourage pisciculture and aquaculture. Special attention will be given to poultry development and sheep farming including reduced costs of poultry-feed, market support for the stabilisation of egg prices, incentives to establish processing complexes in rural areas linked to small poultry farms, and support to the export of processed products

Agriculture has the potential of becoming a major export sector. Our Kisans will benefit from linking agricultural production to lucrative export markets. In order to realise this potential, we propose to extend incentives to expand the production base of exportable commodities as also the range of non-traditional agricultural exports

In this connection, and in view of the expected bumper crop of cotton, I am happy to announce that we have decided to permit the export of one lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton and two lakh bales of extra-long staple cotton. As regards the import policy for agricultural commodities, these will be so regulated as to ensure that our farmers are assured remunerative prices for their produce.

Major institutional reforms are required to support this package. We have two important programmes in hand in this regard. First, we are initiating a programme to update and computerise land records so that farmers can obtain documentation on demand. Second, we propose to reform, revamp and rejuvenate the cooperative movement which, in many parts the country and in many ways, has failed to play the central role envisaged

for the cooperative movement in our strategy of socio-economic transformation. This is a priority task for our next term in office. The interests of agriculture are the interests of the nation. There is no dichotomy between agricultural development and national development. The former is the foundation of the latter. We are confident that the agricultural package, I am now placing before the House, will herald a bright new era for our Kisans and Khet Mazdoors and for the whole farming community.

Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur):  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you allow me I would like to recite 2-3 lines about this good policy on behalf of the farmers of this country. On their behalf, I would congratulate Shri Rajiv Gandhi particularly for accomplishing all these things when a great farmer is occupying the chair. I would like to read out some lines on behalf of the people of this country, on behalf of the farmers of this country. I myself being a farmer submit: "Jisne yeh Peeda Pehchani, Bharat ke koti kisanon ke, Mook wyatha samajhi jisne, kheton ki, Khalihanon ke, Hum Nehru ke us nati ko, kheton ka saath kahate hain, Yeh saath krore kisan use, apni asheeshen dete hain."

12. 24 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF PUNJAB FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS FROM 11TH NOVEMBER 1989

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P. Chidambaram.

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): 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, 1989."

12.24 1/2 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER—*in the Chair*]

As the House is aware, in view of the then prevailing situation in Punjab, Proclamation under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Punjab was issued on May 11, 1987 on the recommendation of the Governor. Approval of the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha for the issue of the Proclamation under article 356 was obtained on 12.5.1987. The Legislative Assembly of the State, which was initially kept under suspended animation, was dissolved on 6th March, 1988 on the recommendation of the Governor

As the law and order situation in the State continued to be disturbed, approval of both the Houses of Parliament was obtained for continuance of President's Rule for a further period of six months with effect from 11-11-1987

Under the existing provision of Article 356(5) of the Constitution, President's Rule could not be extended beyond a period of one year unless the two conditions mentioned in that clause are met. As both these conditions were not fulfilled, Article 356(5) of the Constitution was amended by the Constitution (Fifty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1988 so as to make clause (5) of that article inapplicable to the Proclamation issued on 11th May, 1987 with respect to the State of Punjab. With this amendment President's Rule can be extended, if necessary, for a total period of three years in Punjab without fulfilment of the conditions mentioned in clause (5) of Article 356 subject to the ap-

proval of both House of Parliament for continuance of Proclamation for a period of six months on each occasion.

After enactment of the Constitution (Fifty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1988, President's Rule in Punjab has been extended with effect from 11-5-1988, 11-11-1988 and again with effect from 11-5-1989. The present term of President's Rule in Punjab is due to expire on 10th November, 1989.

The Governor of Punjab in his recent report to the President of India has stated that the fight against terrorists has reached a critical stage. With fresh spurts of anti-national terrorists trying to come from across the border with newly supplied arms and ammunitions, there exists an imperative need to firmly and effectively deal with them as well as the terrorists who are already in Punjab. Accordingly, he has stated that it is necessary that the President's Rule in Punjab be extended for a further period of six months with effect from 11th November, 1989.

The Governor has further mentioned that it is not possible to have any Assembly Elections as there is near total uncertainty in the political arena in Punjab, with Akalis being divided and sub-divided in several groups and sub-groups. As a result, a politically unstable situation has arisen and the Governor is very doubtful whether any cohesive or stable State Government could be formed. In the Governor's view, a much more stable political situation will emerge in Punjab after the coming of Lok Sabha Elections. Accordingly, he has recommended that Assembly Elections should be held only after the Lok Sabha Elections, whenever they are held.

In the circumstances, the Governor has recommended that the Proclamation dated 11th May, 1987 under Article 356 of the Constitution may be extended for a further period of six months with effect from 11th November, 1989.

Keeping in view the situation prevailing in the State and taking all the relevant factors

[Sh. P Chidambaram]

into consideration, it is proposed that the President's Rule in Punjab may be continued for a further period of six months with effect from 11-11-1989

In view of the position explained by me I solicit the approval of this august House to the Resolution mentioned by me at the beginning

MR DEPUTY 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 the 11th November, 1989 "

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) Mr Deputy Speaker, I heard the hon. Minister with much attention to understand what the Government hopes to achieve in the next six months what they have not been able to achieve in the last six months or the last 2 1/2 years. The Governor has said that we are at a critical stage in the anti-terrorist operation. Behind this seems to be the assumption that terrorism can be fought and eliminated by police methods. I think it is high time that the Government realise that there can be no solution to the Punjab problem by force, that only a political solution can deliver the goods. Today we are in a situation of despair. Every day we open the newspapers and death stares us in the face. The human toll goes up every day. I think on a daily basis,—I do not have the statistics but the hon. Minister might have them—the daily toll has gone up and not gone down. You will correct me. I read the report about the number of terrorists killed. I still recall a day in the Consultative Committee when the then Minister of State for Home Affairs informed me that the number of terrorists was a few scores and that they will ultimately be eliminated very soon. That did not come to pass. Every act of anti-terrorism has generated

more terrorism. I would like to request that the Government should look into this logic of the situation. What is happening in Punjab which is supporting this process of generation of terrorists? Something has to be done. We do get a glimpse now and then when the reports of massive violation of human rights come to the surface. I do not know how far we have to go by them because they may be exaggerated. But the fact is that the human rights situation in Punjab needs to be looked into very closely because otherwise an operation which is solely based on force, not on reconciliation, can never succeed.

Sir, there are three elements I would like to point out to the hon. Minister which show a glimmer of light in this encircling gloom. On the political plane no Sikh leader of any eminence has supported the concept of Khalistan. On the social plane, despite every effort by the anti-social and anti-national forces, there has been no communal conflict at all in Punjab. On the economic plane, I would like to say it to the glory of the average Punjabi that despite all the terror, all the violence and all the blood-shed, the economic productivity of Punjab has remained unabated. These are the three basic facts—a political fact, a social fact and an economic fact—which provide the basis for the Government to deliberately choose a course which shall bring peace to Punjab and not to crush the people of Punjab under the heels of a police Administration. Let us consider the situation afresh. Let us do something.

We had a long debate in this House on the Sarkaria Commission Report. That was important for the Punjab context also because we felt that when there are deliberations over the Sarkaria Commission Report, we would review the entire pattern of Centre-State relations and come, perhaps, to give a new orientation to our federal concept which shall fulfil some of legitimate urges of the people of Punjab so that a new regime, a new concept can be evolved and I feel decentralisation would satisfy the longings of the people of the country—not only in Punjab but in other parts of the Union also. But that did not come to pass. I do not know where we

lost track of the debate; where the Sarkaria Report lies. I do not know which refrigerator it has been put into for cold-storage. We lost another opportunity.

Sir, in Punjab there were a number of problems which had also figured in the famous Rajiv-Longowal Accord. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that apart from fighting terrorists under the President's Rule, what has the Government of Punjab done to move forward towards the solution of this longstanding problem. I think he should take the House into confidence on that so much has been achieved from the economic front, so much has been achieved in meeting some of the demands of Punjab and of the Sikh community. I do not think there has been any progress on the question of utilisation of the river waters. I do not think much has been done,—something has been promised but not much has been achieved on the question of industrial development and certainly the territorial problem of Punjab remains untouched. Why there is this total stagnation? Why can't these issues be sorted out while your campaign against terrorism goes on. Then there are very legitimate demands of the Sikh community. I do not have to go over them because they are known to the hon. Minister. There was a time, I again recall the other day in the deliberations of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee when we were close to an agreement on the basic religious demands of the Sikh Community and yet nothing was achieved. What has been achieved on that?

The real problem in Punjab is to heal the wounded psyche of the Sikh community. They are patriots and they are nationalists of the highest order. They do not yield to anybody in their patriotism or in their nationalism. But there is a sense of insecurity which dogs them all over the country. Let the hon. Minister tell us as to what has been done to heal the wounds of 1984? Why are they still running? How many persons have been punished? Recently, there has been a set back. What is the Government doing about it? When shall the Sikh community get justice for the thousands of people massacred

in cold blood in 1984? This is the question. And unless you answer this question, you shall not be able to bring a sense of harmony in Punjab. This is your greatest failure.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like the hon. Minister to reply to this. The Punjab situation cannot be resolved in isolation. The Punjab situation can only be resolved if the Sikh community living in our country, a respected community, a community which has been second to none in sacrifices for the nation, for the freedom movement and for the defence of the country, feels at home, at peace, reconciled with the nation, secure. Therefore, a dialogue is necessary. Now the hon. Minister just now read out the report of the Governor that Sikhs are divided, The Akalis are divided. Yes, they are. So, you say: "to whom shall we dialogue with?" That is the eternal question pending for the last two and a half years. You have not been able to find anybody worthy of talking to in the whole of Punjab. Let us forget the Akalis. When did you last talk to Dr. Swaran Singh, the grand old man of Punjab? When did you last take into confidence such eminent Sikh Members of this House like Dr. G.S. Dhillon, I would like to know. Why did not you talk to your own people? They will show you light, they will share your burden, they will lead your way. Perhaps, you do not want to come to a solution. Perhaps, you do not want to talk to anybody. You want to go only with the gun. And the gun will never secure you peace. The Akalis are divided and there are factions. Yes. But no harm in talking to all of them. They are eminent leaders—Shri Barnala and Shri Badal. But they are dubbed as anti-nationals and put behind the bars and considered security risks. Even such eminent people who are not politicians like Sarvashri Khushwant Singh, Arjun Singh and Amrik Singh—I am choosing three names from three different fields. There are retired Chief Justices, eminent writers, retired heads of the armed forces and retired Vice-Chancellors. Why don't you call them? Why don't you talk to them? Why don't you take the initiative to have a national round-table on the problems of the Punjab and the grievances of the Sikh community to which all

[Sh. Syed Shahabuddin]

nationally eminent Sikh leaders in their own fields, politicians, jurists, writers, scholars, educationists, former civil servants, ex-servicemen, farmers and industrialists—and their glorious names bring honour to the country, people who feel proud of being Indians, who have done us all proud—may be invited? Why don't you talk to them about the Punjab and about Sikhs and find a way? Merely extending the term of the President's rule for six months will not do. It will take you nowhere towards success, nowhere near reconciliation or harmony which is the crying need of the day. You have to do something more.

Sir, the Sikhs have to be made to feel that the nation cares, that the nation feels concerned, that the nation shares their agony and anguish and that we are all concerned and we shall do something to reassure them and give them hope for the future. Therefore, my humble plea is this. We may pass this resolution—of course I cannot stop it—but the political process has to be resumed. There is no other exist, no other alternative but to resume this political process and you cannot deny democracy to the people of Punjab. If India is to stay democratic, elections have to be held. And I do plead with the Government that under no circumstances should it deliberately avoid general elections in the Punjab. In fact, they should try to create a situation in good time that the general elections and the elections to the Assembly can take place at the same time.

With these words—unhappy as I am at this extension, I wish to give the Government a chance—with this criticism, I support the motion.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views in the House regarding setting in motion the process of holding election. I would also like the Government to hold election to the Punjab State

Assembly along with the Parliamentary elections. Our Congress Government has to a great extent controlled the situation in Punjab. Now the terrorists are active only in a few border areas and efforts are being made to curb them also. I think that now elections can be held peacefully in that state. Allout efforts should be made to contain terrorism and hold elections peacefully. I would like the hon. Minister to make an announcement to this effect. Secondly, I would like to submit that inspite of terrorism, people of the state have maintained communal harmony and that is something appreciable. In several other states of the country like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and some parts of Gujarat, there has been some communal tension but Hindus and Sikhs in Punjab have great love and feeling of brotherhood for each other. This is a good sign. In spite of violent terrorist activities somehow they have maintained harmonious relations. People in other states should also follow their example and maintain communal harmony. Third point which I would like to make is that despite terrorism, agricultural and industrial production has been maintained of a reasonably good level in Punjab. They have continued to make their significant contribution in agricultural and industrial sector in the country. I would like to land the farmers and people of that state for their contribution. Industrialists in urban as well as rural areas of that state have given fair output. Thus everything is going on fairly well. Efforts should be made so that they may also participate in the elections. Anandpur Sahib Resolution has not been approved even by the Sarkaria Commission but members of Akali Dal have been sticking to it. If this resolution is approved it would mean that the demand for Khalistan has been conceded to a great extent. Hence this resolution should not be given recognition because it would encourage other states to make similar demands and resulting fragmentation of the country. Even now, attitude of Akali Dal is not clear. They still participate in the 'Bhog' ceremonies of terrorists and are not opposing them. Unless they condemn the terrorists in clear terms, we can not believe them. In this connection, we should tell the supporters of Akali Dal to criticise the

terrorists and condemn them. Unless they do so, we cannot give recognition to them. Punjab enjoys the top most position in the country in implementation of the 20-point programme. It means that agricultural production, industrial production and production in other sectors is going on smoothly in the state and we appreciate it. Rajiv-Longowal Accord can be successful only on this score and unity can be maintained. Therefore, the remaining provisions of this Accord such as question of sharing Ravi-Beas water, on which attitude of both the Haryana and the former Punjab Governments has not been encouraging, should be implemented. A reasonable and just solution should be found out. All the concerned parties should get their due share of water. If needed, this matter can be sorted out through the High Court or the Supreme Court. Rajasthan is also a party to it and our interests should also be watched. I wish that no more Resolution seeking extension of President's rule in Punjab will be brought forward in the House in future. General elections for the Lok Sabha are going to be held in December or January, Elections for the State Assembly should also be held along with Lok Sabha elections and a popular Government should be installed there. Elections should be held to restore democratic set up. However, I support this Resolution for extension of President's rule in Punjab.

SHRIK.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Resolution brought forward in this House to extend President's rule in Punjab. In fact, farmers of Punjab have made commendable contribution in the progress of India and Punjab is known for the green revolution. The Government has done a lot for improving the economic condition of the farmers in Punjab. In terms of prosperity, they are in the top in the whole country. I want to congratulate the farmers. In so far as the President's rule is concerned, none but Akali Dal is responsible for it. When Akali Dal gained majority in elections, Barnalaji formed the Government, but the terrorists found berth in his Government. Those elements took steps to destroy Punjab. As a result of which, all its neigh-

bouring states viz. Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh also became disturbed. In Punjab, terrorism assumed serious proportion. Our Government made all efforts to restore peace there. It has all along been endeavour of our Government to maintain peace in Punjab. We want prosperity in Punjab through peace. We are also in favour of political solution to the Punjab problem. The Government has taken a number of steps in this direction. Meetings were organised and Rajiv-Longowal Accord was signed. Our Government left no stone unturned to implement this Accord but the Akalis did not display unity which was so vital for success of the Accord. On the contrary, they indulged in such activities which might take the country towards disintegration. It was a situation similar to one created by the Muslim League at the time of independence, as a result of which Pakistan was formed. The Akali Dal created similar situation in Punjab by passing the Anandpur Sahib Resolution which has the support of all factions of Akali Dal. A number of conspiracies were hatched to get things accepted which were not permissible under the constitution. Efforts have been made to exploit the people of Punjab and vitiate the atmosphere there. It has never been the intention of our Government to continue the President's rule in Punjab for long. Members of opposition, who are unfortunately not in the House today, have also accepted that Rajiv-Longowal Accord was in the interest of not only the country but one and all. A number of persons belonging to our party as well as B.J.P. made sacrifices for it. Not only this, many media men such as Lala Jagat Narayan and his son, owner of a leading Newspaper of Punjab and many press reporters were killed. People were killed irrespective of caste or creed to which they belonged. Terrorists wanted to create disturbances in Punjab in one way or the other. I would like to say that not only our Government has made efforts to control the situation but our leaders also undertook tours in the state to take people into confidence and the present Governor is also doing very commendable job. Shri Ribeiro has also done commendable job in Punjab. A con-

[Sh. K.D. Sultanpuri]

spiracy was also hatched to kill him. Had our Government not intervened in Punjab or had Punjab not been brought under the President's rule, situation would have been different there because intentions of the Barnala Government were not good. Recently in Delhi, a big rally was organised to celebrate birthday of one of the opposition leaders who is Chief Minister of Haryana. A large number of people were brought to the rally. I was pained to see that a number of people with terrorist links came to the rally and delivered speeches and indulged in irresponsible talk. There can not be a greater hypocrisy than this rally, which was attended not only by smugglers but also by persons having links with terrorists. Money was extracted from the people for this rally. I oppose it. This Resolution seeks to extend President's rule in Punjab for another 6 months. If peace is restored in Punjab within this period, I would like that the Assembly elections should also be held along with the elections to the Lok Sabha so that the people of Punjab could get democratically elected Government. Democracy should be reinstated and terrorists should be punished in Punjab. I think that justice is not being done to the Harijans in Punjab. The officers of the Government are doing injustice to them. On a writ petition, the Punjab High Court had given a decision in favour of Harijan employees. I came to know from a number of people who came to meet me recently that nothing had been done to implement the decision of the court. It has been stated in the decision that the Harijans should be provided reservation facility on roster basis, but nothing is being done in Punjab to implement the decision. I would like to urge upon the Hon. Home Minister that he should take the concerned officers to task for this lapse and get his decision implemented as soon as possible. So far as the question of extending the President's rule in Punjab for another 6 months is concerned, it is a good step. There is no weight in the argument of some hon. Members that the Government wants to keep Punjab under President's rule for a longer period. Government's intentions have always been clear.

Government has made all possible efforts to see that a democratically elected Government is formed in Punjab and right atmosphere is created there. I would like to request the people belonging to all the political parties to pay attention towards it so that peace could be restored in the disturbed areas. In order to restore normally, President rule is a necessity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Governor and his advisers who have made all efforts to deal with the odd situation and improve the conditions in Punjab. Therefore, I support this Resolution seeking extension of President's rule in Punjab for another six months.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: (Baramulla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today I am not going to deliver any long speech, but I would definitely like to ask Mr. Chidambaram one thing who has by now acquainted himself fully with the Punjab problem as he has paid several visits to Punjab at frequent intervals. I would like to know detailed figures in regard to loss of life and property in Punjab. The figures available with the people and those available with me indicate that on an average larger number of people have been killed during the period of President's Rule. There have been heavy loss of property and a large number of people have sustained injuries. The official figures show that earlier, when the Barnala Government was in power, the number of people killed and injured was much higher and loss of property was also on a higher scale. What do these figures indicate? The Government should take us into confidence and give us the true picture of conditions prevailing in the State. As far as people, including myself, are concerned, there is no taker of figures given by the Government as we have the graph of the psychology of the people. There are no two opinions that killing of people has been going on unabated even during President's Rule. We are shocked to hear the incidents of killing which have become a routine affair. Hardly a day passes in Punjab when incidents of killings are not reported, therefore, request Mr. Chidambaram to furnish the

detailed figures. Let us know as to how many people were killed daily on an average. We were in much distress before Shri Ribeiro assumed the charge of DG of Police in Punjab. The Punjab problem has time and again been discussed in this august House and I have also spoken on a number of occasions. When Shri Ribeiro was posted as D.G.P., Punjab, we had very high expectations from him as he was considered to be a dedicated and disciplined soldier and an able administrator. Later he was made an adviser to the Governor. In the beginning, when he was made D.G.P. he used to say with firm conviction that Punjab problem would be solved with the pursuance of policy of bullet for bullet. He was of the opinion that this policy would restore peace and normalcy in Punjab. It will improve the state of affairs in the State for those who want peace. Recently, I came across some news reports in the national press in this regard. With the publications of his interviews with the journalists, it appears that he is equally remorseful as we are. His theory of bullet for bullet has failed. Finally, Shri Ribeiro has relinquished the office of D.G.P. Punjab. He said that his policy of bullet for bullet was wrong. The problem cannot be solved by it.

13.00 hrs.

At the time when Shri Ribeiro propounded this theory, I had, in one of my speeches, recalled the philosophy of Gandhiji that violence breeds violence. When bullet is returned by a bullet, violence would be generated. Today, Shri Ribeiro subscribes to the theory propounded by Gandhiji. This does not mean that firing will not be resorted to under any circumstances. The Government will have to take some measure or the other when terrorism raises its ugly head and some misguided people challenge the verdict of the voters. But the Punjab problem is not a case of law and order alone. It is a political problem. That is why at the very outset, I had requested the Central Government to instal a popular Government in Punjab. Of course, there were also problems before the Central Government. It might be a mistake on the part of the Government to

hand over the reign to Shri Barnala. Shri Badal would have been a better choice. Sometimes, the people at the Centre prefer people in the States, who may act as their rubber stamp. But they should note it carefully that people who are required to run democracy should be chosen by the people and they should be allowed a free hand to run the administration as per the will of the people. But the sycophants do not let things run like this. They want people to act as the agents of Central Government. At that time, they were in a state of terror, as far as I know. He thought like this and misguided the Prime Minister and the latter chose Barnala to head the Government. Of course, Shri Barnala was a right person. But he did not have the guts which Shri Badal would have displayed. Now that opportunity is lost. Shri Barnala has been dismissed by the Centre. I am not aware what were the compulsion before the Central Government. But I agree that the Central Government had been facing a very unfortunate situation in Punjab. That is why President's rule was imposed in the State. But it is not at all wise to extend President's rule again and again. Punjab problem is not going to be solved by a further extension of the President's rule. I feel that the Central Government should initiate dialogue with the people of the State in view of the situation now prevailing there. Just now, Shri Shahabuddin was making a submission in this regard. I also come across a cross section of Sikhs while travelling by trains, aeroplanes and also meet a large number of sikh leaders in the Parliament and the Central Hall. They heartily feel that our country should remain united and the Punjab problem should be solved. But how long can we wait for this. Is it advisable that the DG of police or the Governor of the State should report the state of affairs prevailing there and suggest measures for a solution. Government in Punjab cannot be run by these two persons. Situation in Punjab should be brought under control. We are the representatives of the people and any decision with regard to Punjab problem should be taken in this august House.

I understand the difficulties being faced by the Government and I do agree that

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

President's rule should be extended further. Even then let us consider the solution suggested by Shri Jain and see what is going to happen in the new Lok Sabha. But feeling in the House is that there should be no further extension of President's rule in Punjab. Let the people choose their Government and it should be the responsibility of the popular Government to maintain law and order in the State. The administration in Punjab should not be left in the hands of one person, whether he is Mr. Ray or Mr. Gill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we adjourn for lunch till 2.05 P.M.

13.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till five minutes past fourteen of the clock*

14.09 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at nine minutes past fourteen of the clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF PUNJAB FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS FROM 11TH NOVEMBER, 1989-CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tombi Singh.

[English]

SHRIN. TOMBISINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Resolution seeking extension of President's rule in Punjab. The sufferings in Punjab are not merely the sufferings in Punjab and for the

Punjab alone but for the whole country. Punjab is very much a vital part of our country. Therefore, the problem of Punjab has never remained isolated to Punjab itself. Because it is linked up with so many other national issues. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to see a possibility of stability in Punjab. I listened to the charges made against the Government and the ruling party by hon. Shri Shahabuddin while initiating this debate from that side. I do not agree with the accusations that the Government is not interested in any solution. If the Government or the leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi is not interested in any solution, what was the purpose of that historic Rajiv-Longowal Accord? In fact Rajiv-Longowal Accord was a historic step and a lot of risks were involved. If the full implementation has not been possible, it is not for us to blame the Government alone. It is not as if the situation in Punjab today is unsatisfactory because it is the making of the Government. No, it is not so. But we wish that there should have been a peaceful settlement, a political settlement and a lasting settlement in Punjab. So far, we have not been able to come to a solution.

Now, we must look back first to what has happened in the past, what is the current position and what are the possibilities in the future. There are a few factors which I would like to emphasise in the course of this debate.

Punjab in spite of its turmoil, in spite of the agitations, insurgencies, the socio-economic life there has not been disturbed. This is one very important aspect which should be considered from all angles. If it is merely insurgencies, the underground elements, then the things would have been solved much earlier. Now, we have very good reasons to suspect the political activists, the political leadership, who are working on the ground, excepting the Congress and certain other progressive political parties. The Sikh organisations like the Akalis are still holding the key to some of the insurgent activities. If the over-ground leaders cut-off themselves from the underground activists and if they stop guiding from the ground by not provid-

ing them money, arms and other things, the solution could have been possible.

It has been mentioned time and again in spite of attempts made by Khalistan activists, the so-called extremists in the name of the wound in the psyche of the sikh community, that it has not been possible for them to create any communal situation in that part of the country. It is quite understandable. Because the sikh community and Hindu community are basically bound to the same root. They cannot be divided. They are brothers. They are not merely brothers of the same soil but they have been rooted from the very beginning in the origin of their religion and so on. So, communal solution or the communal division has been impossible. This is impossible. So, any organisation or any movement working on this basis has failed.

It has been said that police alone cannot solve the problem. That is all right. But without police we cannot see any possibility of controlling the situation which is existing in Punjab. So, I earnestly appreciate the various stages in which the police have controlled or have tried to put itself in the picture in the series of changing situations. At some stage, we have reasons to criticise the police also. But then, they have learnt from their experience that it is not they alone who can solve the problem but they have to play a big role in solving the problem.

The police is a very important in solving the Punjab problem. That means the Home Ministry, its administration and other channels have to play a very important role in bringing about a change there. A question was asked as to what Government can do within the further six months for which it is going to be extended. Of course, Government can do a lot. Killings are, in a way, continuing. Whether their numbers are increasing or decreasing, is a question which can be put. But the number of killings cannot determine whether the situation has turned for the better or worse. Some solution should be found. Only then will killings stop.

But I see today the role played by the

people on our border, and the border on the other side, when the neighbouring countries are not friendly for instance, by Pakistan on its border with Punjab. The question is how far, after the coming in of the new regime in Pakistan, training of revolutionaries, insurgents, supply of arms, ammunitions and money from across the border have been controlled. We would like Government to spell out the progress made in this behalf.

I have a few suggestions to make. I belong to a border State on the north-eastern region. Luckily, the Government of Burma is a very friendly and also, more or less, a harmless Government, not very powerful militarily or otherwise. It is not hostile to us. Even there, the border is creating problems due to narcotics and other smuggling activities today. I understand that BSF and other para-military forces working on the border there are demanding more and more battalions, for keeping a better check on smuggling transactions. That, by itself, is a very important aspect of our social economy. On the other side, this narcotics traffic has harmed the youth of this country.

On the Pakistan side, we have got not merely the traffic of narcotics. Narcotics must be coming in huge quantities from this border; but what is more harmful is the coming in of arms, money and the element of training given to the insurgents and Punjab extremists on the Pakistani side of the border. It should be stopped. Only then will a solution to the Punjab problem, to some extent, be possible.

We have been discussing a political solution, against the background of the Rajiv-Longowal Accord. Upto what extent have we benefited from it? This remains a controversial point, but we can say with some amount of satisfaction and a good amount of appreciation of our leadership, that at a very critical stage, a very bold step, a very risky step was taken to enter into the Rajiv-Longowal Accord. Longowal, that friendly leader, died. After that, a solution requires the consideration of so many other factors e.g., regarding Chandigarh, assessment of territories be-

[Sh. N. Tombi Singh]

between Haryana and Punjab, and solution of the water problems involved between Punjab and the neighbouring States. These steps should be taken.

Why should we blame Rajiv Gandhi, the present regime and the Congress alone? We have to blame, rather very positively, the present leadership of Haryana, viz. Devi Lal. What is he doing about this problem? He has to play his role and help in arriving at a solution to the critical Punjab problem. This is a national problem. If he claims to be a nationalist and thinks in terms of national welfare, he should think of making his own contribution in regard to Punjab.

What is the role played by them so far? The people of the other communities, people of different political organisations, people of different sections, leaders of the Akali Group, they should also come out not merely with statements but with certain practical suggestions and practical steps, with a sense of commitment that they stand for the commitment entered into in the Accord. But they have not been able to do it. On the contrary, there are still suspicions that they are helping the underground people. In this regard, in spite of the unhappy situation in spite of dissatisfaction about the unstable situation in the Punjab, the Government is trying to stabilise the things over there.

We appreciate the stand of the Government, the proposal of the Government that the President's Rule should be further extended. Let us hope that this should be the last extension of the President's Rule over there and nothing more would be welcome than a regular election and the government of the people there on the election basis.

I would like to suggest that the border area in Punjab is No. 1 and other border areas on the Bangladesh side, on the Burmese side, on the Chinese side should be more seriously checked so that things may not be worsening in the near future. Burma Border on Mizoram, Nagaland, and Manipur

needs more BSF battalions and forces. To my knowledge, they have demanded them. The Government of India should immediately fulfil their demand and strengthen the security on the borders because prevention is always better than cure. All undesirable things on these borders should be checked carefully and seriously.

With these words, I support the Resolution regarding extension of President's Rule in Punjab.

[Translation]

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by the hon. Minister.

I have been observing that as and when the House took up a discussion on the issue of President's Rule in Punjab, all the hon. Members have expressed serious concern on this issue. Once I became curious to undertake a tour of Punjab and took stock of the situation on the spot with a view to ascertaining the correctness of the news being reported in the newspapers. I visited the places from Anandpur to Nangal and saw myself that the situation was not so bad as the people outside the State used to say. There were a handful of persons who were already involved in criminal activities. There are others who, being unemployed have been misled by the terrorist. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that one everybody in the country know that some or the other external force is involved in this act of terrorism. Shrimati Benezir Bhutto came to power through elections. But the attitude of Pakistan towards India remains to be the same. First of all, the Government should take note of this. India has a history of its own. Shri Shahbuddin was right when he said that this problem should be resolved through democratic methods. In this connection, it may be recalled that certain people, be it Shri Devilal or for that matter somebody else, put obstructions in the implementation of the Rajiv-Longowal Accord. We never backed out from the Accord reached with Sant Longowal. It has been rightly said by some

people including Shri Ribeiro that it is not a good thing that the people who have been misled due to unemployment should not be treated as terrorists. In order to curb this tendency, the Government of Punjab held open public meetings and started a campaign of recruitments in Government departments. The Governor of Punjab held meetings with the people and proceeded with his mass contact programme. This resulted in difusing the situation prevailing there. But I would like to say that the problem cannot be solved only by providing employment to unemployed youths.

Today, everybody knows the state of terrorism prevailing in Punjab. It was only yesterday that we came to know from the T.V. and Radio that a terrorist named Satnam Singh, carrying an award of Rs. 1 lakh on his head was killed by the police. It is definitely a commendable performance of the Punjab police. It is not so that the police sprays bullets on anybody and everybody. One thing that I would like to say emphatically is that the general public have become totally disgusted listening to the incidences of terrorism. But it is not at all justifiable to brand other people as terrorists only for the reason that a handful of persons are involved in this act. People who commit bank dacoities or other such crimes should not be enlisted in the terrorist category. There should be separate laws for prosecuting such persons on the lines of the one enacted for the terrorists during the last session. There should be separate provisions for the terrorists and other criminals. There should be no uniform provision for both the categories.

We must agree today that people committing other type of crimes use the same types of rifles and guns as the terrorists and naxalites use.

It has also been correctly said that there is no Hindu Sikh feeling in Punjab. Had there been any such feeling, Punjab might not have done as much progress as it did. Today, there was a news report that Punjab has secured first position in the matter of electrification. The people of the State are very

labourious and, as a result the state has achieved a lot of progress. But the Government should make special provisions to provide employment to unemployed people. At the same time, I must say that the Government should spare no stones unturned in eliminating the people who are providing shelter to terrorists. Every effort should be made to remove the problem of unemployment from the State. Our history has all along been a peaceful one whether it was the era of Panditji or Gandhiji. We have always been worshippers of peace. Even today, we are worshippers of peace and want to solve all problems through peaceful means. The terrorist problem could be solved through the following method: "Prem nahin Kartavya marg se, nar ko kabhi digata hai Sudha pikar Manav, Shishdan de jata hai."

I, would therefore, like that the problem in Punjab calls for a political as well as democratic solution. With a view to holding elections in Punjab, Hon. Prime Minister signed an Accord with a great personality like Sant Longowal. Even then peace and tranquility could not be restored in the State. Sant Longowal fell victim to terrorists' bullets. Shri Rajiv Gandhi is of the view that the problem could be fully solved if the Accord signed with Sant Longowal is implemented in its original form. So far as other political parties are concerned, I have seen what the condition of these parties are. On the one hand, they say that the Prime Minister does not hold talks with the Opposition, on the other, they do not give any concrete suggestion regarding the Punjab problem which could enable Shri Rajiv Gandhi to solve the problem. Their stand is also not clear as they raise objection to President's rule in Punjab, but its utility can be judged from the comparative figures of terrorists being killed in Punjab today as compared to the number of people which used to be shot down earlier by the terrorists. Similarly, there has been a substantial improvement in the law and order situation there. The hon. Minister is quite experienced and I would like that by giving priority to democracy, elections to State Assembly and elections to the Lok Sabha should be held simultaneously.

[English]

**SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deograh):** I rise to support the Statutory Resolution moved by the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Chidambaram, seeking extension of President's rule in Punjab.

There is no other alternative available either with the Government or the people except to extend the President's rule till a congenial climate is built up in the State for holding Assembly elections. The extremists continue with their spree of violence everyday. But there is a redeeming feature that very top terrorists are being arrested and top terrorists on whose heads awards worth lakhs of rupees are there, are surrendering themselves. As indicated by the hon. Minister, the terrorism has reached a critical stage and both Central and State Governments are doing their best to contain and curb it.

We welcome the statement of the hon. Governor that elections would be held in Punjab for the Lok Sabha together with the rest of the country. We sincerely wish that the parliamentary elections are passed off smoothly in that State so that it paves the way for holding Assembly elections.

There is a criticism that the Government lacks political will in finding a permanent political solution to the problem. Undoubtedly, this is not just a law and order problem. It is much more than that. A political solution has got to be found to it. How can it be done has got to be thought of there is so much criticism against the Government, against the Prime Minister? I think those who are criticising are doing it blindly. They are doing it just for the sake of criticism. They are those political parties which have very narrow partisan political approach. They are those who do not like to cooperate with the Government in restoring normalcy in Punjab. There is lot of disturbance going on there.

Punjab, as you know, Sir, is our pride, is the pride of Hindustan. Punjab has played a very very significant role, a gallant role in the freedom struggle. In respect of sacrifices,

Punjab is number one. It is second to none. Even after Independence, at the time of Chinese aggression and during Indo-Pak war, the role of Punjab, the contribution of Punjab has been enormous, has been laudable. In independent India, in the field of economic development also, Punjab has played a leading role. Inasmuch as the Green Revolution is concerned, it has been quite a success in Punjab. Again, it is heartening to observe that despite these disturbances, under the President's rule, with the support given by the Central Government, the economic development of Punjab is not affected. Everybody from outside is amazed how, despite such bloodshed there, despite such a terrible situation there, the economic development of Punjab is not affected. Some hon. friends have already stated that in the matter of implementation of 20-Point Programme, Punjab has topped the list. In the field of agriculture also, their march towards further progress and prosperity is going on. On the industrial development front also, the progress is satisfactory.

My previous speaker, Mr. Tombi Singh has rightly mentioned about the Rajiv-Longowal Accord. Knowing fully well that from the point of view of electoral prospects this Accord would be a set back to Congress, our Prime Minister, who also happens to be the President of the Indian National Congress, went in for it. In his anxiety to restore normalcy, in his anxiety to curb terrorism once for all, in his anxiety to see that the democracy flourishes in that part of the country also, he went in for this historic Rajiv-Longowal Accord. He went all out to implement it in letter and spirit. But we all know the obstructions. As you know, Sir, the sharing of Chandigarh and so many other things are there which concern not only the State of Punjab but also the State of Haryana. Who is ruling Haryana now and what sort of cooperation they are lending to the Government of India, we all know. Rather, every step being taken by the Government of India is being opposed by them. It is time that we have to fight out terrorism with all our might. We have to put an end to this bloodshed which is going on there. The Governor of Punjab is doing a

commendable job there. He is sparing no pains. He is making all efforts for the restoration of normalcy there to see that in the field of development, Punjab does not lag behind, despite the disturbances which are going on there. We are happy to see that when there is a wave of communalism in every part of the country, Punjab remains unaffected, which again proves that the people of Punjab like peace. They do not want communal riots. They very much want communal harmony and that is a welcome feature and what is now required is that we have to deal firmly with terrorism which is sponsored, supported and encouraged by foreign hands. It is common knowledge that arms on a large scale are being supplied from across the border and there is also a conspiracy going on. Naturally at this point of time is it not a fact that the role of the Opposition, the conduct of the Opposition is adding to this problem? Particularly for the last several months what they have done, how they have boycotted Parliament, what they are speaking now outside, does it not contribute or does it not add to this problems of terrorism? Does it not send fillip to this terrorism in Punjab? Can the Opposition deny this? All that they are saying, all that they are doing is that they are polluting the political atmosphere of the country, for which we can certainly blame the Opposition and any sensible man will find fault with the Opposition. Naturally in these circumstances when there cannot be election held there in the near future for the Assembly—and of course in a democracy nobody would like imposition of President's Rule and again its extension, that way also Punjab has set a record—we have to go for the amendment of the Constitution itself to provide for President's Rule at a stretch up to a maximum period of three years. Is the Government happy about it? We are sure that under the compelling situation the Government had to do this. Naturally the Government are doing their work, but it is time that all should work combindly including the Opposition parties since this is a national problem and this poses a threat to our democracy which is so fondly loved. We love democracy, we are proud of Indian democracy and when it poses

a threat and it is a national problem, it should be the endeavour of all the political parties to cooperate. Our Prime Minister, thanks to him, has consulted Opposition leaders on several occasions on the Punjab situation. But what has been the outcome? That has been construed as a weakness of the Prime Minister or the Government by the Opposition. So, the Opposition also should realise their mistake and should appreciate the seriousness of the problem and they should come forward and join hands with the Government to find out a political situation to this problem.

With these words, Sir, I support the Statutory Resolution in seeking extension of President's Rule in Punjab Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition in Punjab is very tense now. I feel that never before in history has there been so much loss of life and property, nor has brutality been seen to the extent it is witnessed today in Punjab. I would like to put a poser to the hon. Minister as to how many persons have been killed and what is the value of prosperity destroyed ever since the President's rule was imposed there. We will have to make a comparative study of this figure with that during Barnala Government's regime because when Shri Barnala's Government was dismissed, the ruling party at the Centre had said that they had to kick it out because the loss of life and property had increased beyond limit and terrorism could not be controlled. I would like to know whether destruction has increased or decreased after dismissal of Shri Barnala's Government. From the statistics, it appears that the loss of life and property has increased after the imposition of President's rule there. I would express my anguish over the dismissal of Barnala Government. It is curious that the Congress Party had tried its best to install Shri Barnala's Government. This was a good step because this question was not of much significance as to whether Shri Barnala or Shri Badal should have been made Chief

[Sh. Abdul Rashid Kabuli]

Minister but a way for democracy was found out in Punjab. This democracy granted a status to Shri Barnala and he made his best efforts but the way, his Government was kicked out for electoral gains in Haryana elections, did not display good taste. I regret to say that the allegations against Shri Barnala were made only at the time when the election scenario in Haryana reached a critical stage and the Congress Party was bent upon winning the election, come what may. No such charges were made against Shri Barnala before the elections and he was made a scape goat at the altar of Haryana elections. This has formed part of our history of misfortune because the destruction in Punjab is that of the entire country and is not limited to Punjab alone. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what has been the intensity of destruction of resources and how many people have been killed there till now. The resources which could be utilised for the development of our country have been wasted due to the Punjab problem. Punjab has proved as a gigantic problem for us as Afghanistan for U.S.S.R. at one time. We should see that situation in Punjab may not take a turn similar to one in which U.S.S.R. had to withdraw from Afghanistan. I regret to say that we have not adopted a good policy on Punjab. Even on earlier occasions, I said that the problem would not be solved with the help of Operation Blue Star. It would only aggravate the problem and you have seen where we have reached gradually. I would like to tell the loss that country is suffering due to the Punjab problem. It is not only the loss in terms of life and property in Punjab, but the age old bond of brotherhood between Hindus and Sikhs has been destroyed. As the hon. Speaker also said that base of secularism in Punjab rested on strong foundation and mutual bond between the two communities has been so deeprooted that it could not be easily broken. But unfortunately some elements in both the communities seem to be bent upon breaking the age old bond of affinity. They have succeeded in their evil designs to some extent and both the communities are at the loggerhead now.

India is getting a bad name in the whole world due to this. I have received a number of reports from America and Europe that India is getting a bad name in other countries for destroying the human rights in Punjab. The hon. Minister will have to take the House in confidence about the reported violation of human rights in Punjab. A number of incidents have come to my notice in which police has been found to be involved in committing atrocities. That tarnishes the image of India. We are very proud of the Indian culture and democracy. Ours is the biggest democracy in the whole world but when such incidents are reported in U.S.A. or any other European country that innocent people are being killed in Punjab by the police, we become defenceless. A U.S.A. based prominent leader of Khalistan had circulated some pamphlets in India and I feel that he was successful in tuning the American Congress anti-India since such statements were flasted all our world, the senators of American Congress and the youths supported the creation of Khalistan a number of times. There may or may not be truth in allegation of excesses on sikhs in India but the way it is being given publicity abroad has tarnished our image. For example, in a recent incidence, two women of Punjab working in a bank were apprehended by the police and taken to police station where during interrogation they were mercilessly beaten. Perhaps this incidence took place in Ambala. The Police was interrogating them to know the whereabouts of their husbands. When they said that they did not know their whereabouts as they were absconding for several years for fear of police. Upon this, they were mercilessly beaten up in the police station. A detailed description of the incident was reported in the foreign media. They were released later on but are still undergoing treatment. Their condition is very serious. These are not isolated incidents but these are repeated. One thing I would like to tell about Shri Barnala. Once he called a meeting of the cross-section of the Members of Parliament, I was also present in it. He narrated a story that once he managed to get it announced on the A.I.R. that the Government would welcome the youths who had migrated to

Pakistan or other places for fear of police. In response to that announcement, when 10 sikh youths about whom he had already talked to Shri Ribeiro also, were crossing the border to come to India and were unarmed, they were shot dead. When this was reported to Shri Ribeiro, he replied that the B.S.F. incharge there had said that it was his responsibility and not that of Shri Ribeiro. Was this matter reported at any stage? A responsible person like the Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Barnala had to make this complaint. When those ten persons were taken to the cremation ground, thousands of people participated in their cremation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that the conditions created by the police in Punjab need to be looked into because if the police gets more powers in democracy, we face its adverse effects which have to be borne by the whole democracy. In this regard, I would like to ask whether the Central Government has paid attention to the complaints received from the people in Punjab? The Government should pay attention to the misery faced by the people and their complaints received by you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end, with your permission, I want to say that Punjabi-culture should be kept in mind while improving conditions in Punjab. It is a composite culture of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims. It embodies their regional aspirations. I would like to point out that the Government has rejected the Anandpur Sahib resolution but police rule, armed forces etc. are not its solution. Therefore I want to request you that a political solution is indispensable for Punjab. This problem cannot be solved by extending the President's rule by 6 months to one year. This will only spread the poison even further. Punjab is our protector and the farmer of Punjab is growing foodgrains for the entire India. The solidiers of Punjab protect our borders and for the protection of Punjab we will have to hold discussion in an atmosphere of love. We will have to initiate dialogue. The present conditions can be improved only through love and not through hatred. The extention of police rule and Governor's rule will further aggravate in situ-

ation. Therefore the Government should find out a peaceful solution at the earliest. A solution to the problem should be found with the help of Punjabiati.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Resolution which has been introduced to extend the President's rule in Punjab. We Congressmen have always believed in the slogan which says that:-

"Punjab ho ya Guwahati apna desh apni  
neeti  
Jitni bhasha utne pradesh phir bhi Hindus-  
tani ek"

This is the Congress culture, and its political goal. So there was no need for hon. Shri Kabuli to have said all that he said or to give any suggestions. This is India's policy and the Congress(I)'s religion. There has been lot of improvement in the situation in Punjab after the imposition of President's rule in the State. The agricultural and industrial production in Punjab has not received any set back due to acts of violence. The situation there was extremely tense before the imposition of President's rule. It had become difficult to gather intelligence reports from there. Since the imposition of President's rule intelligence reports have been coming in regularly helping the Government in arresting the terrorists and dealing with terrorism in an effective manner. This is the right step towards solving the Punjab problem. The hardcore terrorists have either been apprehended by the police or killed in encounters. We have never favoured the idea of a 'bullet for a bullet' or any other form of violence for that matter. Knowing fully well that the atmosphere was not conducive for holding elections and regardless of our Party's position in the State we want ahead and held elections there in order to restore normalcy in the State. The Government that came into power failed to come up to the expectations despite Central Government's assistance. Therefore, that Government had to go.

Our Government is committed to implementing the Rajiv-Longowal Accord but this

[Sh. Jagannath Pattnaik]

is not possible without the cooperation of the Punjab and Haryana Governments. All of us are aware of the practical hinderances that are coming in the way of implementing this Accord but still the Congress Government and hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi will fulfill the commitment of implementing the Accord.

I had an opportunity to visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar about 5-7 days back. I feel that things have improved a lot after the Operation Black Thunder. The fear among the people for the past 4-6 years that they cannot enter the Gurudwara has been removed. Today people frequent the Gurudwara without any fear. The law and order situation in Punjab has significantly improved and there is no communal tension between Hindus and Sikhs there. The Hindu-Muslim-Sikh unity is at its pinnacle there. A lot has been done towards the success of the strategy for Punjab which envisages checking terrorism and defusing the tension in the border areas of the State. Keeping in view the prevailing situation and for the restoration of democracy in the State, it is necessary to extend the President's rule there for some months more. Along with this I would suggest that elections to the Punjab State Assembly be held with the general elections. I would like to tell all the political parties to take the responsibility of creating an awareness among the people throughout the country about the problem of terrorism. People who have suffered at the hands of terrorists should be told that the entire nation is with them. The unemployed youth in Punjab should be provided employment. In this way we have to solve these problems. With these words I support the Resolution for the extension of President's Rule in Punjab.

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu):  
Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I support the Resolution moved by the hon. Home Minister for extension of President's rule in Punjab.

I was in Punjab when elections were held there. Elections were held in a very calm atmosphere. When the Barnala Gov-

ernment came to power, expectations were high that the Punjab problems would be solved and people would live in harmony. But the situation worsened day-by-day and a time came when the Barnala Government proved ineffective in protecting the life and property of the people. Just now hon. Shri Kabuli was saying that the Barnala Government was toppled perhaps because the Congress wanted to come to power in Haryana.

15.00 hrs.

A Government in Punjab cannot in any way influence elections in Haryana. The atmosphere in Punjab was different from that in Haryana. So fed-up were the people of Punjab that they were willing to do anything to change the depressing scenario. The trouble started because of some Ministers in the Barnala Government who gave shelter to terrorists. The volatile situation forced the Barnala Government to resign and President's rule had to be imposed in the State. This led to an improvement in the situation and an increase in agricultural production.

15.01 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Hon. Shri Shahabuddin said just now that the Government had not paid any attention to rural development. I would like to inform him that a lot has been done in this direction. Consequently, a wave of happiness surged through Punjab. Apart from this a Rail Coach Factory has been set up there to provide jobs to the unemployed youth and bonus has also been given to farmers. Besides, new projects have been set up and several concessions have been granted for which the Government has spent a huge amount of money. The common man in Punjab is much happier, much better off than he was before. These are signs of changing conditions; conditions that are changing for the better. But still much remains to be done and the moment is not ripe for holding elections. Even now arms are being smuggled

from Pakistan. Pakistan is still not mending its ways. Terrorists trained there are being sneaked into Punjab. Incidents of bank robberies and killings of innocent people are still taking place. I mean to say that things have not improved in absolute terms.

I have to deal with Punjab almost every-day since it is one of my neighbouring States. Anti-social elements are very active there. So I feel that the Government should properly assess the situation. Though the President's rule cannot be extended indefinitely, elections should not be held until the situation becomes normal. Holding of elections now could lead to dangerous consequences because many terrorist groups are still active

The General elections are round the corner. If a solution can be found till then we could have the elections there also. The need of the hour, of course, is to extend the President's rule for another six months. The situation should be closely monitored and elections should be held at an appropriate time.

SHRIGIRDHARILAL VYAS (Bhilwara):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Statutory Resolution for extension of President's rule in Punjab for a further period of six months.

Many hon. Members have rightly suggested that because of terrorist activities this is not a favourable time for holding elections either to the Assembly or Parliament. During the President's rule in the State, the Governor has made every effort to remedy the situation. The police too has taken tough measures to put an end to terrorism but they have not been fully successful in their efforts. More we try to suppress it, more it aggravates. There are several countries which are behind the terrorism in India. Terrorists are being trained in Pakistan and they are receiving funds from U.S.A. Canada, England and other countries. Besides, narcotics like hashish etc. are being smuggled into Punjab from Pakistan on a very large scale and this is another source of funding the terrorists. So the Government needs to take steps such as

sealing of the border between the two countries. Until smuggling activities are curbed, the terrorist operations will receive constant support and strength with which terrorist activities will be organised. Therefore the primary requirement is to eliminate the smuggling activities. This is the main reason behind terrorism in Punjab today. Efforts have been made to seal the Punjab border but it has failed to solve the problem. Smuggling activities are now being carried out on a large scale through the Rajasthan border and arms are also being smuggled into the country through that route. Therefore, until and unless entire length of our border with Pakistan be it in Punjab, J&K, Rajasthan or Gujarat is completely sealed and complete check is ensured with the deployment of defence forces, the measures taken to check terrorism will prove ineffective. That is why the Government will have to make appropriate arrangements so that smuggling activities in the border areas may be checked and infiltration of people trained across the border may also be curbed. One hon. Member from Jammu and Kashmir was pointing out just now that the situation had improved under the Barnala Government but the Congress Government at the Centre toppled it in order to further its own interest in the Haryana elections and as a result of which the situation deteriorated. This assessment is incorrect. I want to say that the Barnala Government could not control terrorist activities and at the same time some of his ministers were secretly assisting the terrorists on account of which the terrorist movement received constant support. This is why the administrative measures could not prove effective. Therefore, I would like to submit that the Barnala Government was toppled not with an eye on Haryana elections but to curb the activities of the terrorists in which the Government of Punjab had become completely ineffective and hence there was no mischief or design behind the toppling of Barnala Government. The step taken by the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi was perfectly timed. If the Barnala Government had been allowed to continue for more time, much harm would have been done to Punjab. Therefore, this action was justified. Today it

[Sh. Girdhari Lal Vyas]

is essential to take strong steps to strengthen the administration there. I would like to submit that efforts to separate Punjab from the Indian Union are not only being made in Punjab but also outside the country. The Sikh expatriates, who are financially sound, are providing all possible support to this secessionist move. The Government of India enjoys cordial relations with all these nations and an understanding of providing mutual support also exists at the political level. Under such circumstances our Government should exert pressure on these countries to take necessary steps to check the activities of Indians who are engaged in inciting and supporting secessionists in our country. The Government should take definite measures in this direction and until this is done it will not be possible to check terrorist activities. Therefore, it is essential to look into this matter.

Secondly, as regards the development works, it is a fact that certain development works have been undertaken. A railway factory has been set up and the farmers have been provided assistance in other different ways. I think that the extent of work which has been undertaken under the Rajiv Government for the progress of the farmers, knows no parallel in earlier days under any Government. This can be verified through the production scene as well. Despite the delicate situation the State is facing the production has not received any set back. As a matter of fact, it is constantly increasing. This makes clear that all round development has taken place. It can definitely be claimed that Punjab is the backbone of our country. If Punjab ceases to be the integral part of India, it will weaken the whole nation. This State is the granary of the country and the whole country depends on it for its foodgrain requirements. Thus, Punjab is the bulwark of the entire nation. When development efforts are made here, it is done with the objective that it should contribute in taking the country forward and in making it strong and powerful. As mentioned earlier, Punjab makes a major contribution in our food requirements. There-

fore, we have made appropriate provision irrigation, apply of power, fertiliser and seeds in this state so that it can produce enough to meet the requirements of the rest of the country. This is why I had said that Punjab is the backbone of India. Its development is the development of India and if it is separated, it will weaken the nation. Therefore, strict action should be taken against those engaged in terrorist activities. Our action should be so strong as to annihilate the terrorist groups and India's integrity may be protected and it may emerge as a powerful nation with Punjab making maximum contribution to its development. I welcome and support the resolution brought by the hon. Minister for the extension of President's rule in this state.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the resolution moved in the House for the extension of President's rule in Punjab. We should realise that the Punjab problem cannot be easily solved because terrorism is not an ordinary criminal activity.

Even when terrorism had become a global phenomenon and it had spread all over the world, India remained unaffected because the people did not give it any support. But eventually a pocket developed where terrorism could find a safe haven. History stands testimony to the fact that wherever terrorism has struck, it has retained its hold for a long time. At times it becomes very difficult to put complete end to it. Therefore, it needs to be accepted that terrorism will continue in some form or the other for a very long time.

The terrorists do not belong to Punjab. They are mostly outsiders and are trained outside the country. They are also funded from abroad. After their activities in Punjab are over they take shelter in the neighbouring State. The terrorists in general do not belong to Punjab although there are some of them who belong to this State.

In a T.V. serial which I saw last night, one Hindu and one Sikh were shown sitting across a table. When the Hindu was ques-

tioned, he replied that his mother-tongue was Punjabi and the national language was Hindi. Thereafter, when he was asked as to whom did Punjab belong, he replied that it belonged to the people of Punjab. The Sikh on hearing this intervened and said that Punjab did not belong to the Punjabis alone but it belonged to the whole of India. This view was expressed by the Sikh. Taking into account all these things there can be no doubt about the patriotism of the Sikhs. The Sikhs in general are not involved in the terrorist activities taking place in Punjab.

Apart from this if the ordinary farmer, the agricultural labourer or the common people of Punjab were involved in terrorism, the State could not have made any progress. The production also could not have increased. That is why the average Punjabi should not be considered as having a hand in terrorism in the State. The common people of Punjab are not involved in the terrorist activities taking place in the State.

It is a fact that many people are being killed by terrorists in Punjab but it has to be accepted as well that the political power enjoyed by the terrorists does not exist any more. They are not given political protection and the terrorist leads a life of an ordinary criminal. He merely commits a crime and absconds. He does not enjoy any political patronage today

Still I would like to give one suggestion. If terrorism continues in Punjab, we will have to do something other than extension of the President's rule there. Some days back, I had made a suggestion and I would like the hon. Home Minister to consider it. Punjab should be treated as a Union Territory for some years. By doing this, the question of holding elections soon will not arise. If Punjab is removed from the list of States and converted into a Union Territory, the question of extension of President's rule will also not arise. We have many other Union Territories like Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshdweep and Minicoy Islands. There are no legislative assemblies there. As such, there is no legal constraint on us to

bring a Bill for enacting a law there. Therefore, Punjab should be made a Union Territory for some time till peace is restored there and it should be done within next six months. I do not say that Government had promised but it definitely wanted to hold elections to Panchayats in Punjab. If elections to Panchayats had been held, we would have known how far the people are ready for elections. It would have worked as a barometer. Why the proposal of holding elections at the Panchayat level was not carried out? Any how it does not matter whether elections have been held or not. But I would like the hon. Minister to clarify in his reply as to what is the Government's assessment about holding elections to Legislative Assembly or the Lok Sabha.

[English]

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): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for the support they have lent to the Resolution seeking extension of President's rule in Punjab for a further period of six months. I am happy that the political reality in Punjab is widely recognised and accepted by the hon. Members. The political reality is that conditions in Punjab do not lend themselves to a situation where we can hold elections and I will presently tell you 'why'.

Speaking here Mr. Shahabuddin, Mr. Kabuli and some other hon. Members raised certain vital questions. These questions had been raised before and we had tried to answer them to the best of our ability. Take, for example, the question of Punjab Accord. There are eleven items of the Accord. Eight have been fully implemented. The remaining three items are: one relating to transfer of territory in lieu of Chandigarh; the other relating to the sharing of river waters and the third about enactment of an all-India Gurudwara Act. There is no consensus today among the States on enacting an All India Gurudwara Act but we are in constant touch with the various States in this country which

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have a substantial number of Gurudwaras. However, I do not think that that is an issue which affects the Sikh psyche as Mr. Shahabuddin put it.

The other two issues are indeed capable of resolution but I must say with a deep sense of regret that we are not capable of resolving them as long as we have on the one hand a totally fragmented Akali party and on the other a totally recalcitrant Government in Haryana. It is a classic struggle between an irresistible force and an immovable block. Neither will see reason. Neither will come forward for a dialogue. Neither will put forward a solution and the history of the Barnala Government when it was in office in relation to these two items was going forward one step and taking two steps backward. I do not, therefore, think that the failure to fulfil these two items in the Punjab Accord is the cause of terrorism in Punjab. That is not the cause of terrorism in Punjab. On the contrary, we have said times without number that terrorists have no use for the Punjab Accord. The terrorists do not support the Punjab Accord. The terrorists have no faith in the Punjab Accord and the implementation of the Punjab Accord is not going to make any difference to the kind of mad struggle that is being waged by a section of the terrorists.

Again I am asked to give numbers. In the past, I have given these numbers and I have no hesitation in doing so. But there is a naive belief that there is a cause-and-effect relationship. The problem of Punjab, the problem of terrorism, is far graver, far deeper. One must look far deeper for the real reasons. If you wish to have the numbers, I will give you the numbers. There was some amount of killings in 1981, 1982 and 1983. As I have said many times before, even if one innocent person escapes, it certainly is no matter of comfort. We must hang our heads in shame as there is terrorism and people are killed by terrorist violence. In 1984, 359 innocent persons were killed. In 1985, after our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi as-

sumed office, there was a major political breakthrough leading to the Punjab Accord. Political power was transferred to the Akali Party. No one gives credit to the Congress Government for that and that is what pains me. Political power in a fair and democratic election was transferred to the Akali Party. In 1985, only 63 persons were killed in Punjab and that is certainly not a matter of comfort. Sixty-three persons killed means 63 times we had to hang our heads in shame. But only 63 persons were killed. Who forfeited that goodwill? Who allowed this Government to collapse? Who allowed the fragmentation of the Akali Party? Who could not control terrorism? Who started the policy of appeasement which led to the Golden Temple being taken over by the terrorists? That was the Barnala Government. What was the result of that? The wages of neglect of 1985 were paid in 1986 when the number of killings went up to 520 and 1987 when the number of killings went up to 910. It is not as though you do something today and terrorism or terrorist violence goes up tomorrow. It is the kind of Government you give, the kind of action you take, the kind of measures you take which will bear result—good or bad—six months later or a year later. Because the graph is on the rise, because the Barnala Government exhibited a total incapacity to control terrorism, the Police were demoralised, the Government was divided, the Cabinet was divided, the party was divided the Barnala Government had to be dismissed. 1988 was the worst year of terrorism. We had to completely rebuild the Police in Punjab. We had to put together a civil administration. In 1988, 1,949 people were killed. In the first nine months of 1988, from January to September, 1,614 people were killed. And last year, we saw Operation Black Thunder where, by a very carefully controlled operation, we were able to rid the Golden Temple of terrorists. This year we have done an equally precise operation. In fact, we have done two operations. They have not received publicity because we did not want them to get too much publicity. But in terms of the impact on Punjab, I think these two operations would rank just as important as Operation Black Thunder. The first operation was in the Mand

area. Now the Mand area is more or less clear of terrorists and we have been able to establish a police presence there. Earlier, there was no police presence in the Mand area. By careful operations which lasted for two months, the police have been able to establish their presence in the Mand area and the Mand area does not any longer provide an almost free sanctuary for terrorists. The second operation was the operation which we launched in Tarn Taran district which saw a major influx of terrorists. We inducted some special forces and through a month-long operation, we were able to get rid of the major gangs operating in Tarn Taran district. Now, look at the results. Let me once again say that I am not at all happy even if one innocent man dies. As I said, in the first nine months of 1988, 1614 innocent people were killed. In the corresponding period of this year, 846 people have been killed. It is almost one half. It is bad. I take no comfort in this. Every time I go to Punjab, every time I talk to the police in the district, every time I talk to the families who have been affected, I come back with a deep sense of grief. There is no comfort at all. But at least today, the President's Rule has demonstrated a capacity to deal with the problem. In the whole of 1988, 373 terrorists were killed. In 1989, so far 581 terrorists have been killed. In the first nine months of 1988, 86 police men were killed. In the first nine months of 1989, 93 police men were killed. Without doubt, the number of terrorists coming to Punjab and the number of people who have taken to terrorism have increased. But the capacity of the police, the determination of the administration, to fight terrorism has also increased. Therefore, while we look at terrorism, let us not look at it, I may say with great respect, in a blinkered fashion. It is not as though terrorism rises or flourishes or thrives because of this or because of that. The situation in Punjab is grave today. I believe, it is because of three factors. The first is the overt and covert support that has been extended to terrorists from across the border. Unless we are able to deal with that problem, which is a complex problem, which requires fine tuned diplomatic skills, policy initiatives and very careful approach, unless we are able to stem the

tide of terrorists who are trained, armed and financed across the border, it will not be possible for the police alone to end terrorism in Punjab. As we have said many times before, we are in continuous touch with the Pakistan Government. Only a couple of days ago, the Interior Secretary was here in another connection. And we took the opportunity of reminding him that the discussions which took place between our Home Secretary and him in May 1989 deserved to be resumed and further action taken. We are taking some steps pursuant to the May 1989 discussions. We have given them a list of fugitives from law and they have assured us of some steps that they have taken. But my reading of the situation is that while the Government of Pakistan has perhaps taken some steps, the realities on the ground are not very different.

The second problem in Punjab is that there is a critical number of hard core people who believe in Khalistan and who are determined to keep the slogan of Khalistan alive. Take for example, Mr. Jasbir Singh Rode. In a recent statement, he said that the Centre's legal manoeuvring to separate religion from politics and thereby liquidating Sikhism is an election stunt and he said that instead of separating religion from politics, the Sikhs would do better to separate themselves from the country.

Members are aware of the meeting organized by the All India Sikh Students Federation, Manjit Singh Group on 20th September, 1989. Manjit Singh gave a warning against bargaining with the Government by anybody in his individual capacity. He advocated release of detained "leaders" and this includes Jinda who is on trial for the murder of Gen. Vaidya, Atinder Pal Singh who is on trial in Delhi in the Delhi case. Resolutions were adopted by the Convention expressing faith in Bhindranwale's declaration that the foundation stone of Khalistan was laid on the day the Golden Temple was attacked and reiterated that AISSF would leave no stone unturned to achieve this goal.

Another resolution was passed expressing sympathy with organizations like NSCN,

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PLA, Kashmir Liberation Front and TNV for "their struggle for independence".

As long as there is a critical number of people who believe in Khalistan and as long as they will kill, loot, burn, maim, kidnap and extort in the name of achieving goal of Khalistan, one has to carry on this fight. The terrorists should know one thing. Never, never will India yield to Khalistan or to a separate State in Punjab. They will never achieve their goal and the only way we can find a solution is when they give up this goal. We shall never give up our fight.

The third reason for terrorism continuing to thrive in Punjab is the fragmentation of the Akali Party. It is a cold political fact that the Akali Party, as it was originally, represented a substantial segment of political opinion in Punjab. The Congress represents another substantial segment of political opinion in Punjab. The CPI and the CPIM in that order represent segments of political opinion in Punjab. There is no gainsaying the fact that the Akali Party, as it originally stood, represents a substantial segment of political opinion in Punjab. That party is totally fractured and fragmented. There are so many parties that one loses counts of how many parties are there. There are so many leaders and they make such quick changes in their allegiance to each other that it is difficult even to follow any thread of political leadership and political opinion. As long as the Akali Party remains so fragmented and fractured and is unwilling to take a resolute position against terrorism, it is very difficult to hold elections and usher in a democratic Government.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): We can have a coalition Government.

SHRIP. CHIDAMBARAM: There was a time when Akalis and Congress were in coalition. There can be a coalition provided they are a united political party and function as a political party, stand up to threats and stand up to dangers.

Shri Shahabuddin said that not one Sikh leader of eminence has supported Khalistan. Equally, not one Sikh leader of eminence in their parties has condemned terrorism. They take refuge under all kinds of arguments. Sir, I would appeal to the Akalis to close ranks. I would appeal to them to come together and present their political idea before the people and that will be day on which we can say with certainty the time has come to usher in a democratic Government. When we invited them to meet with our Sub-Committee, the Akali Party would not turn up for the meeting. Hon. members here have asked us to talk to them. We are willing to talk to them. But who among the Akalis is willing to talk to us? We cannot carry on a dialogue with the other side of the table unoccupied! We have to talk to the people. We are willing to talk. We went to Chandigarh to talk to them but they would not come to talk to us.

Hon. Shri Kabuli said that all kinds of reports are published and all kinds of things are said abroad. In fact, I am afraid he said certain things which I have not heard elsewhere. I made a note. He said that Hindus and Sikhs do not talk to each other in Punjab. When did he last go to Punjab?

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI: I did not say 'all'. I said that a good number of people were not talking to each other.

SHRIP. CHIDAMBARAM: I have noted down what you said. You said that they were intending to destroy each other. When did you last go to Punjab? If there is a place where communal harmony rules the hearts of the people amidst a sea of turbulence, it is the Punjab today. There is total harmony among the Hindus and Sikhs. I can give example after example. When one community has stood up to defend the other community. What is happening today is there is fear. There is fear in parts of Punjab and therefore there is a certain amount of restraint in social intercourse. But that does not mean that Hindus and Sikhs are not talking to each other, that does not mean that Hindus and Sikhs are intent on destroying each other. On the contrary, look at the recent

reports. Recently major magazines and major newspapers have carried reports. *The Indian Express* carried a report ten days ago. There is another side to Punjab. There is a Punjab which is alive, which is thriving, which is working, which is producing, which is dancing and singing. All this is threatened and a pall of gloom descends on a village or a town when there is a killing. I am not denying it. But there is a Punjab which is thriving and growing. And this has been possible because of the President's Rule.

Sir, this year we have tried to contain the violence as a result of terrorism. I do not claim great success. We have tried to contain it. The number of innocent people killed in 1989 every month has ranged between 85 and 106. Last year it was nearly 250 a month. But this is not a matter of satisfaction. This only shows that despite the increased threat, despite the increased number of terrorists coming in, despite the sophisticated arms, the police in Punjab have the capacity to deal with it. Here and there, there are aberrations. But in a situation as in Punjab where the police and the terrorists are locked in battle continuously day and night, month after and year after year, there will be a few cases where there are aberrations. We do not condone those aberrations, we take action. We try to compensate those who are victims of these aberrations. But it is the police in Punjab which is standing up to the terrorists, laying down their lives. 93 men have laid down their lives in the first nine months of this year in order to protect the unity and integrity of India. So, let us not condemn the police wholesale. Wherever there are aberrations, we will take action. In fact, I have just got a report about the number of police officers against whom action has been taken or action is pending. We will take action against the people who have crossed the line of the law. But we would have to support the police in Punjab which is standing upto the terrorists.

There would be a significant change in the situation in Punjab after the Parliamentary elections. As we see things today, as we assess things today, we believe, we can hold

Lok Sabha elections in Punjab along with the Lok Sabha elections in the rest of the country. This assessment is being made on a continual basis.

As far as Assembly elections are concerned, our mind is open. We are keeping our options open. It is more difficult to hold elections to the Assembly than it is to Parliament for reasons which are obvious to hon. Members—the number of candidates involved and the arrangements to be made. The Governor in his report implies that Assembly elections may have to follow Lok Sabha elections. But as I said, Government of India has an open mind on that. But, if as we believe, it is possible that Lok Sabha elections in Punjab are held along with Lok Sabha elections in the rest of the country and the people of Punjab have an opportunity to speak their voice, that I believe will bring about a significant and qualitative change in the political situation in Punjab. Like the elections of 1985 had brought about a qualitative change, at least for the time being, I think the elections to Lok Sabha in Punjab will bring about a qualitative change. I can only appeal to all political parties...

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI: We have been talking about police in Punjab. What about the victims of 1984? Still so many people have not been rehabilitated. This has been the complaint from them. The Sikhs have always been complaining that the people who suffered physically, mentally and by all means in 1984 have so far not been rehabilitated and the people who inflicted atrocities on the Sikhs here have not been taken to task.

Regarding Jammu disturbances, in 1988, many people were killed. You know six people were killed in Jammu. What action was taken by the Government of India?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We have answered this many times before. As far as people in Punjab are concerned, the Government of Punjab—both during the time of Mr. Barnala and later—have taken steps to rehabilitate all those who have been affected

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by violence of one kind or another in Punjab. It is my appeal to all political parties, to all sections of the people to understand the gravity of the situation and support the Government.

I join hon. Members in expressing my fervent hope that the coming Lok Sabha elections in Punjab and elsewhere in the country will bring about a significant and qualitative change in the situation in Punjab and perhaps as a result of that significant and qualitative change, it will be possible to usher in a democratic Government in Punjab.

Sir, I seek the support of this House to this Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 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, 1989."

*The motion was adopted*

15.48 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE: MAINTENANCE OF A BANK ACCOUNT IN ST. KITTS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek the leave of this House to make a statement on a matter of public importance.

It will be recalled that some national dailies carried on August 22, 1989 reports relating to the maintenance of a bank ac-

count in ST. KITTS, a Caribbean Island, by Shri Ajeya Singh, son of Shri V.P. Singh. It was stated by these newspapers that an amount of US \$ 21 millions had been deposited in an account maintained in the First Trust Corporation Ltd., St. Kitts. The newspaper reports alleged that the account was maintained in the name of Shri Ajeya Singh and that Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh was its beneficiary. On September 11, 1989 Shri Ajeya Singh, son of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, came to India and issued a press release on the 13th September, 1989, denying that he never had any account in First Trust Corporation of any other bank in St. Kitts. He also denied having ever visited St. Kitts. Shri Ajeya Singh also stated that he came to India to make himself available to the Government for any enquiries or investigation.

3. As some aspects of the transaction could attract provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, the Directorate of Enforcement issued a Directive under Section 33 (2) of the FERA, 1973 to Shri Ajeya Singh on 13.9.1989, which was replied to by Shri Ajeya Singh on 18th September, 1989. Since the information furnished by Shri Ajeya Singh in response to the Directive dated 13th September, 1989 was incomplete, the Directorate issued another Directive to Shri Ajeya Singh on 28th September, 1989. The reply to the second Directive has also been received by the Enforcement Directorate on 9th October, 1989. However, the reply received is still not complete and certain details has been promised to be furnished.

4. In the meanwhile, the Directorate of Enforcement has carried out inquiries regarding maintenance of bank account in the First Trust Corporation, St. Kitts. Preliminary inquiries suggest that sometime in September, 1986, a functionary of the First Trust Corporation, Mr. Mclean, was approached by a person in connection with the Special Investment Programme of the Corporation. This person indicated the intention of opening a numbered account for depositing a substantial amount of money. After the details had been settled, requisite forms for