

12.20 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE
 193—Contd.

Mass Killings of Innocent People
 and Rocket Attack on Para-Military
 Camp by Terrorists in Punjab—
 Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next item.
 Discussion on the mass killings of innocent
 people and rocket attack on para-military
 camp by terrorists in Punjab. Shri Buta
 Singh.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
 (S. BUTA SINGH) : Hon. Deputy-
 Speaker, Sir, yesterday, this House witnessed
 a very fruitful discussion on the Punjab
 crisis—a complex problem facing the
 country. In the last 3-4 years, the Punjab
 problem has been discussed from time to
 time. Shri Madhu Dandavate, Shri Indrajit
 Gupta, Shri Ayappu Reddy, Shri Ramoo-
 walia, Shri Tewary and a number of other
 hon. Members have said that we come to the
 House only when an incident of serious pro-
 portions confronts Punjab. Only then does
 the Government take the trouble of discus-
 sioning it.

This only proves that we in the Govern-
 ment consider this august House as our
 guiding force because no other institution
 is as powerful as this one. Under the
 Constitution, this House has been conferred
 with powers to decide the country's future.
 The Punjab problem concerns the entire
 country. So, whenever a problem of this
 magnitude arises, we have to look to this
 House for guidance. Where else can we
 get a better forum than this? This is a
 forum comprising representatives of all
 political parties duly elected by crores of
 our countrymen. What better place than
 this can be there to turn to for guidance?

I see this House as a place where prob-
 lems are looked at from all angles and
 whatever suggestions are extended, we try to

implement them.

Basically, we should understand what
 lies at the root of the Punjab problem. The
 answer to this is 'separatism'. Terrorism
 is the extreme form of separatism. There
 are some elements in Punjab who want to
 divide the country. The question is how
 will these elements realise their objective?
 If they have resorted to terrorism as a means
 to their end, who are the people supporting
 them? All such people are enemies of the
 country, be they within the country or out-
 side. These elements help the cause of
 terrorism in every possible way because they
 want to disintegrate the country.

So, actually speaking, separatism is the
 root of this malady. To what extent shall
 we be able to counter it should be judged from
 the policy which the Government frames and
 the guidance which this House gives.

One thing I can say without doubt is
 that during the last 4-5 years, the people of
 Punjab have continuously fought against
 dreaded terrorism and have not let the
 separatist forces settle on the sacred land of
 Punjab. This is certainly remarkable. The
 people of Punjab have largely contributed to
 this. The political parties of Punjab, like
 the C.P.I. (M), C.P.I., B.J.P., a faction of
 the Akali Dal and the Congress, have also
 lent their support. Kep leaders from almost
 every party have sacrificed their lives in this
 fight against terrorism. We all should bow
 our heads in saluting these great souls.
 Many leaders belonging to the Congress,
 C.P.I. (M), C.P.I., B.J.P. and Akali Dal
 (Longowal) have been killed. These people
 sacrificed their lives to preserve the unity
 and integrity of the country. For the same
 reason, several personnel of our para-military
 forces, Punjab police and Punjab Government
 have laid down their lives. These people
 are martyrs of the country.

Another question that arises here is how
 to combat the menace of terrorism in the
 country? Yesterday Shri Tewary was say-
 ing that in a democratic system, birth of
 terrorism and subsequent efforts to tackle
 it is a problem of immense proportions.
 This is so because democracy is an open
 society. Every citizen of a democratic

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State has a right to express his views and achieve his goals. This has been clearly defined in our Constitution. If anyone so wishes, he can form an association, publicize his point of view and also form a party. Even if their activities are detrimental to the interests of the country, there are many clauses which provide them protection. So, the main issue is to solve this terrible problem while remaining within the constraints of a democratic system. I do not foresee a political solution to the problem of terrorism. The only solution to terrorism is to force the terrorists to lay down arms. Either the terrorists will kill people or the Government will have to do something to make them surrender. There does not seem to be any other alternative.

What I said earlier about separatism can certainly be debated upon. Even those who hold views in favour of separatism could have points to discuss. But how can talks be held with those who believe in killing innocent and defenceless people to further their cause? How can a political solution be arrived at with such elements? This is the crux of the Punjab problem.

Till December, 1987 a lot of courage and firmness was shown in dealing with the hard-core terrorists of Punjab. Para-military forces were successful to a great extent in these efforts. As I said in the beginning, separatist forces are being encouraged both from within and outside the country. It is very difficult to find out all the details in this regard. Our intelligence agencies are working all out to put a finger on the nerve-centre of terrorists. Is it within the country or outside? According to the information received by the Government, the mastermind behind this operates from inside. For every trained man who dies, there are more trained men ready to join the fray. No single country is responsible for this. A number of countries in our neighbourhood are part of it. These people are trained in the developed countries of the world where training schools have been opened. The Government has received information to this effect. Many members participated in

yesterday's discussion on the involvement of Pakistan. The hon. President of India also made a mention about this in his Address to this House. Yesterday several members wanted to know the ways in which Pakistan helped the terrorists.

Officials of the Home Ministry visited Pakistan especially to discuss arms and drug trafficking and movement of terrorists across the border. When the Indian Home Secretary held discussions with his Pakistani counterpart, the latter flatly denied his country's involvement. On presentation of concrete evidence against them, they had to accept their involvement and promised to keep away from such activities in future.

I shall briefly highlight the role of Pakistan in this matter. In some areas of Pakistan, full-fledged training centres are functioning to provide them training.

[*English*]

Permitting its territory as a sanctuary for extremist Sikh elements and as a base for training and indoctrination. Supply of arms and ammunition to the secessionists facilitating visits of extremists from abroad; hostile propaganda designed to inflame anti-India secessionist sentiments; use of India jatha.

[*Translation*]

Pilgrims go there twice or thrice every year. Not only from our country but also from Iran, Afghanistan, Germany, Canada and America. Sikh jathas visit the two or three religious places situated there. During these trips Ministers and officials of the Pakistan Government establish contact with them. They are given 'Saropas' and are entertained lavishly at public receptions. Special provisions have been made for them to visit any place they like. Such is the treatment they receive. But a jatha from India with a strong patriotic fervour is publicly beaten up while the police remains a mere spectator.

I clearly remember what happened last year and a year before that. The Indian jatha protested against the use of the sacred

gurudwara as a forum for spreading false propaganda against our country. On the stage itself, representatives of the jatha were attacked. They were told that their residential addresses were known and terrorists would be asked to wipe out their families. And these very people who indulged in these acts were given a public reception in the evening. In this way the officials of the Pakistani Government encourage terrorists. The brains behind terrorist activities, the leaders of the terrorists are given facilities to regularly move to and from Pakistan. People like Bhai Kanwar Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh of Akal Federation, Gurjeet Singh of All India Sikh Students Federation, Sukhdev Singh and Barabar Singh of Babbar Khalsa...

[English]

These are only a few names I am reading ; those people who are responsible for the entire...

[Translation]

SHRI VIR SEN (Khurja) : Why is the hon. Minister adding 'Bhai' before the names of these people ? Bhai Amrik Singh, Bhai this and Bhai that Such people should be called enemies.

S. BUTA SINGH : Their names are written here. If someone has such a name, what can I do ?

SHRI VIR SEN : Bhai is not a name. You are adding it of your own. You drop the word 'Bhai'.

S. BUTA SINGH : Some people have been given regular facilities. They go there and also send their instructions periodically. They supply them arms from there and finance them by receiving large amount of foreign exchange from big countries like Germany, Canada, America and U.K. We have received information as to the number of terrorists getting training there. There are 8 9 such centres and we have repeatedly written to the Government of Pakistan that such activities are going on in their country against India. Arms are supplied to the terrorists from there and they are given training also. Extremists are being sent

from there to help the terrorists. When they are defeated by our para-military forces, they cross the border, are given assistance again to encourage them to go for another assault.

Pakistan media are continuously helping them in the propaganda against our country. They are given wide coverage. Statements made by the extremist leaders are being sensationalised and published in all the leading newspapers. Yesterday, a friend of mine was reading a Pakistani newspaper. There are two-three leading newspapers in that country such as "Nawab-e-Waqt", "Jung" etc. who publish articles and views of their own in the names of big leaders like Jagjit Singh Chauhan and others. They interview these leaders and publish there interviews in their respective dailies. The circulation of these newspapers is not limited to India, they are circulated in other countries also. This propaganda is primarily made among the Indians settled in foreign countries like U.K., America, and Singapore.

When our hon. Home Secretary went there and produced evidence regarding their involvement before the Pakistani leaders, they initially denied it, but then all documents and video cassettes were shown to them. The statements of those people who have been caught while sneaking into our country have revealed the extent to which Pakistan is encouraging terrorism to de-stabilise and dis-integrate our country. Yesterday, many hon. Members said that the Government does not take up such things with Pakistan. The Government is considering the suggestions the hon. Members put forward yesterday and we are going to take it up with Pakistan through our diplomatic channels as well as at the highest level and will tell them to stop all the support they are giving to the anti-India propaganda.

There are two things which encourage separatism. Firstly it is terrorism, that is to kill people and make them fearful. One thing that is causing great concern today is that it is being said very often that Sikhs are propagating the feeling of separatism, but I can say with challenge that no one in Punjab is in favour of separatism. (Interruptions), In different Gurudwaras, separatism is propaga-

[S. Buta Singh]

ted in the name of religion. Through isolated historical incidents, separatism is being taught in villages. Not that separatism is not discussed in Punjab. It is being discussed under the cloak of religion and community. There is no such village in Punjab, where there is no Gurudwara and there is no Gurudwara which does not have audio-system and big loudspeakers. In the mornings and evenings, along with prayer, they also propagate separatism. Thus, separatism is being propagated under the cover of religion and community. Yesterday, Shri Indrajit Gupta, asked me about this. It is regretful that supreme religious places like Harmandir Sahib, Akal Takht and other gurudwaras are used for anti-national propaganda. It is natural that people will be influenced if separatism is propagated along with Guruvani. But, people of Punjab are wise enough to understand that in the cover of Guruvani, they are trying to disintegrate the country. So they do not give an ear to it. Yesterday, Shri Indrajit Gupta mentioned that they do it in the name of Panth. Actually, Panth is not the name of any organisation. Panth is the way shown by the Gurus. Panth is the name of Guru Granth Sahib. I am not saying it of my own. It was formally published and this meaning is in vogue since the days of Guru Maharaj. He has not used the word 'Panth' anywhere. If at all it has been used, it is because the Panth is the path shown by the Gurus ; it is the teaching given by them.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : The meaning of Panth is the path.

S. BUTA SINGH : It has been made clear about the Panth, and I quote—"Shri-guru Panth so Panth akala, ravi prakash bin bhyo tan kala." Like the sun, Panth gives light to whole of the world. It is not only for a few people wearing turbans. Panth is that which shows path and gives light to entire humanity. We call it Panth and that can only be Guru Granth Sahib. Panth is not any particular class or community. But it is regretful that propagation of separatism is sugar-coated with religion and given the

name of Panth for the people to accept it. Panth is teaching, Panth is path, Panth is light ; Panth is not the name of any political party. So, in the name of Panth, these people are attracting the devotees so as to propagate separatism.

As I said earlier, there is no party in Punjab which is supporting the separatists. But it is regretful that Akali Dal—none of them is present at the moment—is the only party, which has not supported us in our present campaign. In the past or during the time of Barnala Government or even after that they never supported us. I have said it earlier also, may be some hon. Members have not understood it. The so-called leaders of Akali Dal who think that they are in a position to mobilize the Sikhs, should have crossed swords with those who spearhead the anti-national campaign. The political mobilisation which we started against separatism.

SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI (Bhatinda) : Who are these traitors ? What are their names ?

S. BUTA SINGH : I have said just now that the people belonging to the United Akali Dal have not extended support to us. Almost all the political parties condemned brutal killings and tried to sympathise with the relatives of the victims by visiting the scenes of incidents, but the leaders of United Akali Dal never tried to do such a thing, so much so that they did not pass any condolence resolution even when the President of the State Akali Dal (Youth) who hailed from Patiala was killed by the terrorists. Not only on the deaths of innocent and defenceless people, but even on the death of the President of Akali Dal (Youth wing), they did not bother to express condolence. When they were asked that why did they not do so, they replied that it was not their policy. Those who kill the people are awarded titles.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur) : Beside that leaders, two of his brothers and one maternal uncle were also killed. They did not condemn these four murders.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am grateful to

Shri Ramoowalia for giving the exact number. But I mean to say is that they stooped so low, I do not know why. Not that they are fearful. After all, where will they go to save themselves from fear. Everyone has to die one day. I think it is their policy. That day, I made an appeal to them...

CH. SUNDER SINGH (Phillaur) : It is not their policy, they are fearful.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, I am mentioning this because it is not the question of United Akali Dal alone. Their main source is that they control all the Gurudwaras. S.G.P.C. controls all the gurudwaras and it is this party which is ruling in the S.G.P.C. It is mysterious that they are not coming out to oppose terrorism. If they come out openly to oppose it, their message can reach all gurudwaras and villages.

They do not come out openly. Therefore, this thing cannot be publicized through all Gurudwaras and in every village and this too is proving harmful.

[English]

SHRI M.R. SAIKIA (Nowgong) : What about the reaction of other religious leaders ?

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : I am saying the same thing. So far as the allegation of our being partisan is concerned, since the issue concerns the whole of the nation, all political parties must unite to thwart this attempt. I am happy to acknowledge that of all the political parties at least the party of Shri Madhu Dandavate cooperated with the Government for sometime. It is another matter that they too withdrew for sometime, perhaps, they developed friendship with them. They just did not support for sometime. Probably, they sympathised with the United Akali Dal.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : If the Government adopts partisan attitude, we shall not cooperate.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am confident that

if we motivate, the Opposition will definitely cooperate with us. I was waiting to hear the same. There is no question of partisan interests in it. In Punjab, the Ruling Party has got no partisan interest. We all are united on this issue. I feel sorry for only one thing that when we organised joint rally, instead of propagating against terrorism and separatism, some parties propagated against the Central Government. They have only one goal ahead of than and they do not want to sacrifice their political ambitions. The people are being killed, but some parties are availing of even this opportunity to condemn the Central Government. They feel pleasure in doing so and in the same act, they realise their goal. Who is suffering in the process ? It is the country that suffers.

Yesterday my hon. colleague Shri Arif Mohammad Khan stooped so low during his speech that it difficult for me to match him. He indulged in mud-slinging and said that I was a member of the Akali Dal in 70-71. It is on record that during 62-67, I was a representative of the Akali Dal in the House. Whatever I said at that time forms record of Parliament Library. At that time, Shri Ranga was our leader as all the members of the Akali Dal elected to the House were associate members of the Swatantra Party of whom Shri Ranga was the leader. There was nothing surprising yesterday when several hon. Members including Shri Tewary said that all the leaders of my generation who jumped into politics in Punjab, except one or two—Shri Gurdiyal Singh who is a member of the House was one such member as he was not associated with the Akali Dal—almost all of them entered politics through Gurudwara Movement. They are all product of Gurudwara movement. At that time, there was not much of a difference between Akali Dal and the Congress Party. From Baba Kharak Singh till date, all the leaders came into prominence through this process. In Punjab, both Akalis as well as Congress leaders were associated with Gurudwara Movement and Reforms Movement. All prominent leaders of Punjab including Gurmukh Singh Musafir, Pratap Singh Kairon and others were the products of that movement. Sardar Swaran Singh who had comparatively a longer tenure at the Centre than me was

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also one of them. There was only one membership form of the Party and there used to be dual membership: Working Committee members were common to both the parties. All the leaders worked for the country.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : (*Interruptions*)

S. BUTA SINGH : In your party also, there are several leaders namely, Comrade Surjeet Singh, Baba Sohan Singh Josh who have come from Akali Dal. In the present generation of leaders also, there are many—I can name them—who were till recently in the Akali Dal and Akalis at that time were considered to be patriots.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : At that time, Gadar Party was also there.

S. BUTA SINGH : Yes, at that time Gadar Party was also there in Punjab. What I mean to say is that in Punjab the feeling of patriotism was instilled in all and Congressmen and Akalis worked together in harmony. Yesterday Shri Tewary also hinted as it and today I also want to mention that in 1922 the constitution of Akali Dal was full of patriotic fervour but that constitution was amended in 1978. At that time, Madhuji's party was in power at the Centre and in Punjab Akali Dal was at the helm of affairs. In the Centre also, Akalis were in the cabinet and the fundamental change was brought about in the Akali Dal constitution in 1978 at the Ludhiana conference which was inspired by Anandpur Saheb resolution. Let me tell the House today that Shri Chandra Shekhar was also present in that conference but I do not want to drag his name in it, because he might not be aware as to what was being adopted in Punjabi. Athwal Saheb has now come in the House and he knows everything.

Perhaps the constitution amendment did not have any material effect, but it signalled to the people of Punjab, especially Sikhs that Akali Dal was not based on 1922 Constitution, the present Akali Dal was slightly different from the old one and as I said in

the beginning, it smacked of separatism. Nothing has been done till today to rectify it. Today is the opportunity and I must say that if such feelings are fanned from any quarters, they should be stopped forthwith. Therefore, the Akali Dal, especially the United Akali Dal, carries a big responsibility to come out boldly against it because that day it were they who said that their patriotism was being doubted. Nobody is doubting their patriotism, but the signs which are visible by now are doing incalculable harm to the nation. Therefore, statements which encourage separatism should be withdrawn so as to create the same feelings once again in the country.

In Punjab Sikhs are in majority. Sikhs are living in every part of the country. There are many who are unaware of these things and they do not understand Punjab politics. They too are swayed by their propaganda because things are propagated on communal lines. When something is said in the name of Akali Dal, it is not objectionable but if something is said in the name of Panth, the common man and the person who is deeply religious is also moved. Therefore, these things need to be rectified and reconsidered. There is a need to revert to the 1922 constitution, so that the misgivings which have arisen in the country are removed and peace returns to Punjab. The same feelings which were there at the time of the formation of Akali Dal should be restored.

Yesterday Shri Arif Mohammad Khan stated that newspapers had reported involvement of a Central Minister and other people in these things. He also named some other leaders. We cannot stop them because Press has got full freedom. Who can stop them? I want to say especially in the context of the press in our country, that it has not learned to verify the facts before publishing. Yesterday, he mentioned my name also. One thing I would like to say before the House that Shri Arif Mohammad is not an aged person, nor am I. He is of my age. He started his career from Aligarh Muslim University by indulging in a vicious communal propaganda. The people of Aligarh are testimony to the vicious propaganda he indulged in during his days at the

University, which claimed several lives, but now he claims to be the topmost secular leader. Interestingly, Arif Mohammad Khan also began his career as a member of Swatantra Party. He is so lucky to have always got patronage of some or the other big wigs. When he was in the Swatantra Party, he grew under the Shadow of Shri Piloo Mody.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Rangaji was the President of that party.

S. BUTA SINGH : Now-a-days also, he is in league with a big wig. Under the tutelage of Piloo Mody, he enjoyed like anything and got many favours. These days also he is in touch with a big gun. Shri Mishra who is present here knows pretty well about all that he did and there after managed to become Deputy Minister in the Janata Party Government in Uttar Pradesh. All of us know why he gave resignation in Uttar Pradesh. Communal disturbances broke out there.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Are you discussing Punjab or Shri Arif Mohammad Khan ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Kindly bear with me.

[Translation]

Yesterday, the way he crossed all limits of decency to attack me, let me at least expose his opportunistic style of politics. When in connection with a terrible riot, the Janata Party Government issued an order against his wishes, he tendered his resignation. Today he is giving me a lecture on secularism in the House. I have been here continuously since 1967 and now it is about 20—25 years.....

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : I have already said that he had always been associated with one or the other big wig and was in my party also.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Why did you admit him in your party in spite of all this ? (Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : I am not able to hear any thing. I am not here to score any point over anyone. My party is not the regimented party. Now you will ask why did you expel him then. I have already said that he was able to influence some or the other big wig. In my party also, he came in contact with someone and after getting the work done from him he left the party along with him. He has referred to a news item published in the newspaper in which it was mentioned that I got some terrorist released. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is totally baseless and politically motivated. This is just to malign me by pointing me as a shady character so as to encourage terrorists.

AN HON. MEMBER : You are like a moon.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am not a moon. I am just a humble servant of the country. Due to the blessings of Shrimati Indira Gandhi I got the opportunity to serve the party and the country and I have been doing so for the last 20—25 years. In this process, I have also sacrificed a lot in fight against terrorism.

13.00 hrs.

I should not say but I am compelled to point out that some of the newspapers stooped so low and went to the extent of writing that I was the man behind the killings of some of my own family members. According to them, I did it to gain publicity. Now, can you just imagine of a person who would get his children killed just to make headlines ? Only a pervert mind can think on these lines. Some newspapers of Punjab did so at the behest of some of my well-wishers. Unfortunately, all this is being done at a time when we are facing the bullets in the battle field and trying our best to liquidate them. Therefore, I want to say that this type of acts should be condemned by all countrymen.

Sir, Shri Madhu Dandavate, Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary and Shri Gupta wanted to know about the results of numerous laws which were earlier enacted by the Government. We agree that we had to enact a

[S. Buta Singh]

number of laws to deal with the extraordinary situation. Of all the laws, hon. Members have referred to the Terrorist Act. Our experience shows that....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I want to ask a question if you allow me to do so. There is no allegation on the hon. Minister. I have knowingly asked who is committing murders in Punjab in the name of terrorists and their organisations, as this news has appeared in the 'Navbharat Times' dated 4th April, 1988. I had said that it would be in the interest of the country to clarify the position but there was no mention of the name of the hon. Minister. They have disowned the responsibility for all the killings and have said that this is being done by a handful of persons at the instance of the Government and some Ministers. The names of some persons and terrorist organisations have appeared in the news. I request you either to contradict it or confirm it if you so like.

S. BUTA SINGH : This is nothing but propaganda by the terrorists against the Government. They have killed many families including children, old men and women in the border areas of Punjab including Patti Tehsil and Taran Taran area, which is represented by Shri Dhillon. These killings have spread the feeling of hatred among the people against the terrorists. By disassociating themselves from these killings, they just want to make the Government a scapegoat. That is why they are making all these allegations against the Government. No Government worth the salt in this country can afford the killings of its defenceless and innocent people. This is baseless propaganda and a gimmick played by the terrorists to defame the Government and the armed forces in the eyes of the people. Shri Athwal and his friend had alleged just six months back in this very House that the Government was instrumental for the fake encounters. Not only the terrorists but some hon. Members sitting here also make such allegations. This is a fact that no instance of fake encounter has been brought to the notice of neither the Director General, the Governor, nor the

Central Government. All those killed were terrorists and all of them were killed in encounters. This baseless propaganda is aimed at confusing the people. I, therefore, condemn it, because I know such a propaganda should be countered firmly so that the public may not have any illusion about the Government, the para-military forces and the persons who are serving the nation by fighting these terrorists.

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH ATHWAL (Ropar) : He has just now said that no person has been killed in fake encounters and in police custody.... (Interruptions). He has said about fake encounters.... (Interruptions)....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : When he is ready to listen, what is the problem with you ?

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH ATHWAL : Our allegation is still there. He says that nobody was killed in fake encounters. My submission is that when a terrorist is transferred to jail from the police custody, he is normally accompanied by 10—12 armed police men or C.R.P.F. personnel, how is it possible for a terrorist to flee ? I would say that there is no question of his fleeing from the police cordon. He is actually killed by the policemen and it is shown that he has run away. You please tell the House whether the police has ever got identified even one terrorist killed in the police encounter by his parents. I would say that they are tortured to death and declared as dead in police encounter.' Every Sikh killed by police in the State is described as a terrorist. I say that every Sikh is not a terrorist.

S. BUTA SINGH : You please sit down, I have understood what you want to say.

I have never said that every Sikh is a terrorist. Shri Walia has said that people are killed in fake encounters but will he tell the House why no body comes forward to claim the dead body of the terrorist killed in the police encounter ? Following the death of dreaded terrorists, your party performed 'Bhog Ceremony' and the leaders

of your party delivered long speeches in their praise so much so that they were equated with the martyrs of the country. These symbolic gestures of yours have caused a great harm to the nation, Punjab and the Sikh community and this process has not yet stopped. Therefore, I would like to tell you that sooner you stop these gesture the better you will be serving the country as well as the Sikh community. I would, therefore, like to tell the hon. Members to pay their attention to this point.

Shri Madhu Dandavate had asked yesterday why Government was enacting so many laws for Punjab. I would like to state that during the period 1985 to 1987 when the President Rule was not in force, 2784 terrorists were arrested by the Punjab Government and during the President's rule, 3176 terrorists were arrested, bringing the total to 5960. In reply to Shri Dandavate's point I want to say that cases have been registered against all the arrested terrorists but it has not been possible to initiate prosecution against them.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have not raised this question.

S. BUTA SINGH : Many Members have stated this. I have just mentioned your name. Many of them asked why so many laws were being enacted. All this was said in the previous session of Parliament when a minor amendment was sought in the Terrorist Act. Now, Shri Athwal says why the non-terrorists are being killed. There are only two options to deal with them. The first is to prosecute them in the court of law after they are arrested. When we arrested the dreaded terrorists, the court in the State declared our law as ultra-vires and we had to release nearly, 600—700 dreaded terrorists. Thereafter, we sought ruling from the Supreme Court. The situation now is that we are finding it difficult to nab those 600—700 terrorists which were in jail in the month of December. I can say that December was one such month in which we were able to confine them to a limited pocket.

Please remember that the problem of terrorism is not a problem which can be

solved by switching a button on or off. Now situation is that a single terrorist is enough to inspire innocent boys to become terrorist. The situation turns for the worse when they get all types of help and sophisticated weapons from across the border. You might have read in the newspapers that now-a-days the terrorists are not using sten-guns or pistols for killing the people. Instead, they are making use of deadly weapons like rockets, A.K. 47 rifles etc. These rifles have the same striking range as that of machine gun and by using this rifle, a single terrorist can wipe out the entire population of a village. The ordinary laws are not sufficient to restrain the terrorism who have such types of deadly weapons, have their own communication network and night vision equipment. The Government does not want to punish any person without the proper trial but at the sametime it does not want any delay in this process. For this, special provisions have to be made to deal with terrorism. Therefore, the Government had to enact a number of special legislations.

While referring to the 59th Constitution amendment, you have asked why the Opposition was not consulted before taking such a step? First of all, I want to submit that a fairly advance notice of 7-8 days was given for this amendment.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH (Padrauna) : The Sikhs and other people of Punjab are very brave and if any local person wants to have a licence for keeping a gun for his own defence, why he is not given such a licence?

S. BUTA SINGH : Perhaps, you and Shri Indrajit Gupta raised this question yesterday also. I want to make it clear that there is no ban on giving licence for keeping gun in Punjab, only.....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : But the Government is not giving licence for keeping gun to the persons who belong to our party.

S. BUTA SINGH : You listen to me. Only, the licences for weapons of prohibited bore are not being given, because these are

[S. Buta Singh]

issued with the prior permission of the Central Government. The Government is examining the applications received from your party as also from the C.P.I. (M).

SHRI RANA VIR SINGH (Kaiserganj) : Why does the Government refuse licences for the weapons of prohibited bore? You are aware that the terrorists have sophisticated weapons with them and these small guns will be no match for their sophisticated weapons. Therefore, the Government must issue licences for prohibited bore weapons also.

S. BUTA SINGH : This depends on how you assess the situation. But the fact is that even those people in Punjab who are in possession of weapons of permitted bore want to surrender them in the Police Stations at the earliest lest these should be snatched away by the terrorists.

SHRI RANA VIR SINGH : When you do not find yourself in a position to give them the sense of security, you should at least give them the effective weapons so that they could defend themselves. For the knowledge of those who can defend themselves in this way.....

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Surrender of arms in the Police Station is a different matter. There may be some persons who want to surrender or deposit their arms, but you must give licences to those who want to have them.

S. BUTA SINGH : I have just told that the Government have received some applications from some persons belonging to C.P.I. (M), C.P.I. and the Congress. It involves a policy decision and the officers concerned are considering it. These are the double-edged weapons. Some of the people who have these weapons are happy but there are others who are not. But as I said earlier, there is no ban on permitted bore weapons and the licences for these guns are being given in every district of Punjab.

Through some instances; which Shri Ramoowalia gave yesterday, he wanted to portray the defeat of the para-military

forces and the Government agencies at the hands of terrorists. I do not want to be drawn into a debate on the origin of terrorism in Punjab and the steps taken by the Central Government and the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to restore confidence among the people.

The decision to hold elections in Punjab in 1985 was not an ordinary decision. This was the period when every body was saying that democracy in Punjab was out of question. But the Government of India decided to take the people into confidence and seek their verdict. Shri Indrajit Gupta was saying yesterday that we did not have enough experience to tackle these problems. But by holding election in Punjab Shri Rajiv Gandhi has proved that to keep faith in the people is the best experience that one can have. We will go according to the wishes of the people of Punjab and will establish peace in the State the way they want. We held elections in Punjab and also got some good results therefrom.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why, the Central Government is not accepting the demands of the people of Punjab?

S. BUTA SINGH : We have accepted that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You did not.

S. BUTA SINGH : If you go in detail, you would come to know about it. In the Bombay Session of the Congress Party, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had said that to him country was many more times important than the party. Our party suffered setbacks in Punjab but we did not care for that. While performing this difficult task what was uppermost in our minds was the integrity of India and the feelings of the people of Punjab. After elections, the Akali Dal formed the Government. Now, it is said that we toppled their Government. Two Members of that party, are present in this House, seated close to each other. Let them tell who toppled the Government?

AN HON. MEMBER : You toppled it.

S. BUTA SINGH : Let them tell, who

toppled? What could be more treacherous than this that the leaders who collected votes by displaying the photograph of Shri Longowal on their coats and became Members of Parliament and State Legislative Assembly, later on presented 'Saropas' to the killers of Shri Longowal at 'Manji Sahib'. The top leaders of U.A.D. were present at that ceremony. The assassins of same Sant Longowal were given saropas in the Harmindir Sahib publicly. Was it an act of the Congress? Besides, there was only one post of Chief Minister and there were two aspirants. Two persons cannot occupy one post. As such, in order to assert their strength, they formed a separate party. The funny thing is that Shri Barnala made a public offer a few days before the Assembly was dissolved. This thing was published in all newspapers. I have already said that the 22 M.L.As. of the U.A.D. were disqualified by an order of the Speaker. Shri Barnala had gone to the extent of saying that he wished the unity of Akali Dal to be maintained and if dismissal of M.L.As. was the hindrance in the unity, he was prepared to get the dismissal order withdrawn by the Speaker. Shri Barnala is a good, able and leading advocate himself. I do not think that such a thing is permissible under the law. It would have never been possible. Because, at that time the Speaker's orders were as effective as the orders of the court. The Speaker had passed orders at that time. He did not give any ruling. I do not know as to how Shri Barnala would have been able to get that decision reversed. But I do admit that his offer was genuine. It was rejected by Shri Athwal's party. Then who is to be held responsible for this? The Congress Party did not reject it. Those people who were power hungry did not accept such offer. Due to all these reasons, we dissolved the Assembly. Apart from this, there were other reasons also for which we had to take this step.

So far as the Punjab Accord is concerned, I want to say that the more I studied it the more I was convinced to reach the conclusion that there is not a single clause in the Accord which could be implemented by any one party. In certain clauses two parties, in certain clauses 3 parties and in certain

other clauses, 4 parties are involved. So far as Central Government is concerned, it has complied with its part of action. There are some controversial things also. This dispute will not come to an end until and unless both Haryana and Punjab mutually agree to solve the issue. The controversial issues include sharing of water, canal and Chandigarh. These are the issues which are covered by the provisions of the Accord. In the meantime, a number of developments took place, the Accord passed through a number of stages, the matter was placed before the Assembly and was got turned down by the Cabinet. There are several things which I do not want to mention right now. But the fact is that the Accord could not be implemented as it was not acceptable to two to three parties. It does not mean that we have totally abandoned the Accord.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What initiatives have you taken in this direction?

S. BUTA SINGH : The initiatives which were to be taken by the Central Government were taken to the last. The report of the Venkataramaiah Commission was discussed. But the then Governments of Haryana and Punjab could not arrive at a conclusion at that time. We thought that if we want to decide it mutually, there is only one way and that way is to go to a third Judge. We referred the case to Justice Desai because they were finding it difficult to interpret it. We appointed a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court with the consent of the then Chief Justice of India. They did not go before him. They could have at least, agreed to the final interpretation given by any judicial authority. I have no intention to go into this controversy today. But I am sorry that no single party can implement this Accord ex-parte. Due to this some problems have come up in the Accord. Even to-day if such a climate is created, each and every clause of the Accord can be implemented.

You mentioned about the Delhi riots. The copies of the report of that commission are available with all of you. The various recommendations of the report have been implemented. As regards their rehabilitation and payment of compensation...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Jain-Banerjee Commission.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am coming to that. A bulk of rehabilitation work has been done in which thousands of people have been rehabilitated. This thing should also be mentioned here.

The commission had recommended setting up of two committees. Accordingly two committees were constituted and both of them started functioning. Now the first question that arises is as to how far the police was responsible for that and what were the loopholes. Secondly, all the documents which came before the commission could not be investigated fully. Now the problem is how to proceed with them. The above committees were challenged in the High Court. Various references etc. of the Committees were also challenged. Now we are awaiting for the decision of the High Court. Both the Committees have outlived their terms. Each of them has been given six months' extension twice. But the matter being sub-judice, no further steps could be taken in this regard. It is not correct to say that we have totally dropped the idea of taking any action. He has mentioned a number of other forums, the reports of which have been published. First of all I would like to point out that it is an injustice to a commission duly set up under the law, if several other commissions come up side by side under the Chairmanship of retired Judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts and Journalists. The Journalist never retire. They remain active for life like the politicians. In this way several forums were constituted. The forum leaders, instead of contesting the case, fled to Britain for collecting funds. When the Ranganath Commission was sitting here, they were collecting funds in Britain. Even after repeated reminders from the commission, they did not come and confront it. They did not plead the case. Thousands of affidavits were lying pending as they were. It becomes clear from the foregoing that the attitude of some elements, at whose insistence the hon. Members put questions here, has never been helpful towards the Commission and they do not want to follow the course of justice. Since

beginning, they have been adopting this attitude and putting obstacles. A number of committees like that of your people's committee were set up and all these committees published their reports. If an overall study of the reports of all these agencies is made, it will be revealed that the commission report totally differs from the reports of the committees. The newspapers' report is altogether different. I have got them studied. The things and the names of the persons which find mention in the newspaper reports nowhere figure either in the commission's report or the reports of the committees.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : I would like to seek a clarification as to whether the Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission was boycotted by any party due to its terms of reference. I shall say only this much and do not want to go beyond that.

S. BUTA SINGH : The terms of reference were finalised publicly. These were published in the newspapers and all the enquiries were held on the basis of these terms of reference. This is very distressing that we make a demand to set up a commission and once it is set up we start boycotting it on one pretext or the other. Shri Viswanath Pratap Singh also boycotted another commission due to the terms of reference. His case was also similar to this. That commission was also named after the case concerned. Its terms of reference were not changed. I was myself a witness to the meeting which was held with Shri Viswanath Pratap Singh. He attended the meeting with the written terms of reference and a long discussion was duly held for 3-4 hours. He participated in the meeting and approved the terms of reference. When he was required to appear before the commission, he said that these were not the same terms of references he had approved. (*Interruptions*) The same has been the case with this Commission.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I appeared before the Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission. My point of view has

been upheld by the Commission but those who have been found guilty...

S. BUTA SINGH : I am not talking about individuals. You are right.

[Translation]

I mentioned their names. The citizen Forum, the Amnesty International and several organisations registered their names there. But when they were called, none of them appeared.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There are complaints that the guilty were not punished. I had established that the behaviour of the police regarding the Railways was not upto the expectation and the Commission also accepted it. But the Government is not prepared to punish any one. (Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : It was a time when the Commission required co-operation. I am telling that at that time nobody appeared before the Commission. The Government does not want to hide anything. The report of the Commission is placed before the House. The Opposition has demanded a discussion on the report and we are prepared for that, we never objected to a discussion. It may be recalled that I had come prepared before the House during the previous session for a discussion. But it is upto the House and the hon. Speaker to fix time for a discussion. We never objected. We are always of the view that the more the discussions are held in this House and the more the guidance we receive, the more shall we be able to implement them. But the way a regular and sustained campaign has been running in the press...(Interruptions)

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : What is your action taken plan ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Action taken plan has already been circulated.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati) : For the first time you have very categorically stated Pakistan's involvement in this. We

had asked for the question of sealing of the border. There was talk of security belt, powers being taken under Article 249 and inspite of our objection the resolution was permitted to be lapsed. We want to know what additional steps you are going to take now to seal the border and are you prepared to take the House into confidence ?

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important issue. As a matter of fact there has been a very serious and detailed discussion on it. All the agencies of the Central Government and the Government of Punjab who are involved in this task, have considered it. Discussion is still going on. In the meantime, it has been tentatively decided to effectively police the border whether it is Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir or Rajasthan. We are considering as to which parts of the border could be brought under fencing and how the police force could be made better equipped. There is a three-pronged strategy for this. The matter is under consideration as to how we could supervise our border so that no smuggling activity could take place along the border, and the terrorist who are coming from across the border with goods like drugs, narcotics and arms to destabilise our country could be checked. For this purpose, we are thinking of effectively policing the border.

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : We know how effective it has been. We want to know what is 'very effective' ?

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : These are such measures which need to be upgraded constantly.

We are also trying to equip our para-military forces with latest weapons so that they could meet the challenge of the terrorists. The third and the most important thing is political mobilisation. He had made a mention about it yesterday. Just now the hon. Member made a mention of article 249.

[S. Buta Singh]

It was his suggestion only. (*Interruptions*) I am not talking about you. I am talking about the hon. Member who is sitting in your proximity. Since it was his suggestion, we came with the resolution in this House as well as in the Rajya Sabha. But the Opposition got agitated and it staged a walk out from both the Houses. They have also put a restriction on us that until and unless the State Government gives its consent to this effect, it should not be implemented...(*Interruptions*). I am not talking of today, I am talking of the time when article 249 of the Constitution was sought to be amended. At that time, the Governments of Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Gujarat had given their assent. But, Sir, the Members of Akali Dal sitting here would testify that the Government headed by Shri Barnala had refused to give their assent. That is why it could not be done. Eventually, the time limit of one year expired and it lapsed. It was for only one year and could not have been extended further. I want to tell Shri Indrajit Gupta and other Members who were repeatedly saying yesterday that they were not taken into confidence when emergency was imposed, that it is merely an enabling provision and we shall certainly consult them before enforcing it. Yesterday you raised doubts about the amendment, but believe it or not, our intention is not to impose it. We do not want to impose emergency in Punjab. We had made it clear at the time of moving the Bill also that we do not want to impose emergency until the situation demands so. If we are compelled by the situation to take such a harsh step at the eleventh hour, shall we have sufficient time to come to the Parliament and amend the provisions? That is why we have made the enabling provision. Shri Indrajit Gupta went too far in his apprehensions, although our motive was altogether different. Actually we wanted to amend the emergency provisions covering the whole country, but due to rumpus created by the Opposition Parties, we had to restrict it only to Punjab...(*Interruptions*)...nothing more can be done...(*Interruptions*)...Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am saying so because they have adopted such an approach...(*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It was there originally...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Under the pressure of Rajya Sabha, you restricted it to Punjab...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Even now it is applicable to other areas. What are you talking?...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Even now it enables you to extend the life of the House.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South-Central) : Under the Anti-Terrorist Act, more people have arrested in Gujarat than in Punjab...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Whether emergency should be imposed, for that why have you taken the enabling power? You should take a decision and then come to Parliament...(*Interruptions*)

S. BUTA SINGH : Why not? What is wrong in it? Let me explain...(*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Barnala Government did oppose the creation of security belt, but we never opposed the sealing of the border...(*Interruptions*).

S. BUTA SINGH : I was talking about article 249 of the Constitution. I said that they opposed the very concept.

Secondly I am not a legal luminary as our friend Shri Somnath Chatterjee is. I had the opportunity to listen to your worthy father here in the House while sitting by his side. I am distressed to note that you distort things to such an extent that we cannot help bringing an amendment Bill. Our original Bill was very clear. We had consulted leading legal experts and our hon. Members who are constitutional experts, before formulating the original Bill. All of them had opined that it was absolu-

tely suitable for Punjab because only its commanding clause deals with Punjab not the following clauses. But after you created tumult in the House, we thought that we could explain it to the House, we could explain to the lawyers and judges, but if the opposition so desires, it can easily mislead crores of illiterate people or less educated people like me. That is why, we have mentioned Punjab in the following clauses also. But now you are giving still further interpretation to it saying that we are going to impose emergency in whole of the country. Sorry, we have got no remedy for it.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Your Constitutional expert, Shri Chidambaram said that also ; he could not deny it.

S. BUTA SINGH : I cannot vie with you, I cannot compete with you. I have made it clear here...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : What do you say, can you improve the situation by imposing emergency should the situation deteriorate further ? I want you to answer it.

S. BUTA SINGH : We have not claimed so. But, Sir, my submission is that...(Interruptions).

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : If you think you can improve things by imposing emergency, should the situation further deteriorate, you are mistaken. Well, you may try it...(Interruptions).

S. BUTA SINGH : It is your assessment not ours. We neither favour nor support the imposition of emergency. We have simply made an enabling provision...(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : The leaders of the terrorists are calling everybody in the Golden Temple and they are trying to forge unity, but you are not calling any political party ; you are alienating the Opposition parties...(Interruptions).

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : That means that you are giving an advance assurance to the terrorists that although you have passed that amendment, you do not have any intention to apply that. You are telling that to the terrorists...(Interruptions).

S. BUTA SINGH : Your interpretation will help the terrorists....(Interruptions).

[Translation]

When we passed Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Bill...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No interruptions please.

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : They are all given in the Act itself.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : The Government is totally confused how to deal with the terrorists...(Interruptions). You have no understanding...(Interruptions).

S. BUTA SINGH : Let me tell you that when the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities Bill was brought in this House, the same familiar faces, the same hon. Members opposed it tooth and nail...(Interruptions).

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We will oppose every black Bill...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No interruptions please.

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, although I should not say this at this stage, yet I cannot help saying that when we passed this Terrorist Bill...(Interruptions).

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Say something worthwhile.

S. BUTA SINGH : You please be seated. You are only accustomed to speaking and not to listening...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No interruptions.

S. BUTA SINGH : When the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities Bill was passed in this House, the hon. Members of Telugu Desam, CPI(M) and others opposed it, but when it came to...*(Interruptions)*. **

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody. No interruptions. Nothing will go on record.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : This discussion arose out of the stepped up killings in the Punjab. What has happened in the past has happened, you cannot do anything now. Please tell us what you propose to do now...*(Interruptions)*.

S. BUTA SINGH : Now that they have raised this point, let me say this. I want to remind this House that when this Bill was passed in this House, everybody there opposed it. But there came situations when it was used in Andhra Pradesh, it was used in West Bengal, it was used in Maharashtra, in Gujarat and other parts. I tell you that I myself took up this with the Gujarat Government and asked them, why they had used it on the people for whom it was not meant. I had taken up with the Gujarat Government.

[Translation]

In the beginning, I had stated that terrorism can't be wiped out with one blow. It is not possible to do so. It has taken time to control terrorism wherever it was cropped up.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : The Union leaders are detained under the Terrorists Act.

S. BUTA SINGH : The fact is that under the circumstances when the ordinary available procedures, ordinary available legal

things are not helpful, you have to resort to these things. That is why this provision was made in the Constitution.

Shri Indrajit Gupta asked as to what steps are taken to meet the present crisis in Punjab. As I told you in the beginning.

[Translation]

And it is essential to instil a feeling of courage into them. In order to do so, we started a concerted efforts in which all political parties participated. The results were very positive and the morale of the officers got a boost from it. Government is making efforts to carry the task ahead.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How did you give them the rockets ?

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : As I stated that every effort was being made to make use of all resources available with Central Government as well as Punjab Government to meet the challenge of terrorists who are equipped with sophisticated weapons so that peace could be restored in Punjab.

Yesterday, a question was raised by him that we were negotiating with some priests and we were trying to bring a new element here. I want to make it clear here that there is no question of going an inch beyond the secular concept of our Parliamentary Democracy as enshrined in our Constitution. Further, no stone will be left unturned to wipe out the terrorists and the powers supporting them who want to destroy the unity and integrity of the country. The Central Government through the Government of Punjab will itself monitor the situation in Punjab by extending full support to the brave and patriotic people of Punjab who have been fighting against the terrorists to protect the unity and integrity of the country.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : What steps have you taken to meet the situation.

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : The seeds of secessionism will not be allowed to be germinated in Punjab and terrorism will be rooted out from there. We will mobilise all sorts of resources needed for that. Along with it, our hon. Prime Minister is of the opinion that if anybody wants to hold talks within the frame work of the Constitution and ensuring the unity and integrity of the country, Government will not discourage him but in the process the unity and integrity of the country will not be allowed to get jeopardised. In order to maintain the unity and integrity of the country and to restore peace in Punjab, we shall take stringent measures, no matter how expensive or harsh they may be. We will root out terrorism from the soil of Punjab. It is our firm determination and for that we seek your cooperation.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I have a point of order. My point of order is that under 193 discussion, a point was raised with regard to the recent spurt in the killings in Punjab and deployment of sophisticated weapons like rockets. The Minister in his reply did not answer to these points at all.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, there is no point of order. Now discussion on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.

13.43 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1988-89—
Contd.

Ministry of Agriculture—Contd.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhunjharpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the proposed demands for grants of the Ministry of Agriculture... (Interruptions).

Though the Centre is giving crores of rupees as grants to the States for agricultural development, yet it does not have any control over them. When the Constitution was framed 37 or 38 years ago, it was not

envisaged that State Governments would not be accountable for the funds which it would receive from the Centre.

I do not follow the trodden path in my submissions and therefore perhaps, what I submit may give rise to controversies. But whatever I say will be in the interest of the country.

The Central Government repeatedly asked the State Governments to implement land reforms but they did not pay any heed to it. There are still people including the persons holding/ministerial post in many States who possess huge areas of land. These *benami* possessions are in the names of other people.

13.46 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI *in the Chair*]

When the issue of land ceiling comes up, these people want to evade the topic. People have got *benami* land in the names of their relatives and servants even in the names of their pet dogs and cats. What can be more shameful than it? I, therefore, urge upon that this matter should be given a serious thought. One of the major factors behind the growing social tension and formation of many 'senas' is attributed to the absence of land reforms. When this matter comes up, no one is found to be interested to implement it. I want to submit that C.B.I. is sent to investigate into the cases wherever State Police is failed to make any breakthrough. Similarly, Government should set up a machinery in the name of Central Bureau of Agricultural Crime Investigation which would identify persons who have got *benami* land and after identification such persons should be given suitable punishment. As in the case of Income-tax evasion, the persons who give information are given a certain percentage of the amount of tax recovered, similarly, if any person gives information about *benami* land, he should be given a reward of 5 or 10 per cent of the value of land. This is not a joke because only by taking such a measure can this thing be stopped.

Today, Government swears by the name of socialism and wants to bring socialism in the country, but if the above steps are not