

SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Our lives are at stake.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Your life is not at stake. Don't get excited. Your life is not at stake. A bomb has exploded. Bombs are exploded elsewhere also. Just because it has exploded in Delhi, your life is not at stake. You are unnecessarily exaggerating. Your life is not at stake. *(Interruptions)*

17.41 hrs.

SPECIAL PROTECTION
GROUP BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up next item Mr. 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 the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of an armed force of the Union for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India and the members of his immediate family and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Sir, during the last few years, incidence of terrorist violence in the country has been on the increase, the aim of the terrorists being to destabilise the democratically elected government by resorting to selective killing of prominent members of the public including those in the Government. Following the assassination of Shrimati Indra Gandhi, a committee was appointed to go into various aspects of the assassination and it suggested the setting up of a single agency to devote itself to the exclusive task of looking after and ensuring the security of the

Prime Minister. In pursuance of the above, the Government on April 1, 1985 constituted the Special Protection Group, a specialised force consisting of well trained motivated professionals to provide proximate security to the Prime Minister and to the members of his immediate family both in the country as well as abroad.

The Group was formed to provide proximate security which includes protection provided from close quarters to the person of Prime Minister in static and mobile locations as well as in an aircraft. A unit of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), called the Special Duty Group (SDG) is also attached to the Special Protection Group for doing outer cordon duties in static locations for Prime Minister in Delhi; this unit is a uniformed contingent which is placed under the operational control and direction of the Director of the Group.

On the operational side, SPG has a strength of about 1400 officers who are handpicked from various Central Police Organisations and State Governments on the basis of their special inclination and physical and mental agility. In discharge of its duties and responsibilities, the Group carries out advance security liaison at places to be visited by the Prime Minister and for this purpose, it is equipped with a technical wing have a wide range of technical equipment and gadgets.

The purpose of the Special Protection Group Bill, 1988 is to have a self-contained statute for regulating matters concerning this force as well as to provide the essential legal status to its functioning. The Bill provides for the constitution of the Group and for deeming the existing Special Protection Group as the force constituted thereunder. It provides for the terms and conditions of service of the members of the force and for its control and direction. It has provisions restricting the application of some of the fundamental rights to the members of the force insofar as this is necessary for the maintenance of discipline. Keeping in view the exclusive task entrusted to this force, the Bill makes it obligatory on the part of Ministries and Departments of Central Government and State Governments and the

Union Territories, Indian Missions abroad and local or other authorities, civil or military, to act in aid of the Group.

I commend the Bill to the House for its consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of an armed force of the Union for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India and the members of his immediate family and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Now Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, just now, the Hon. Minister of State has explained the reasons for bringing this Bill. I will not repeat what he has said and what has been contained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that is attached to this Bill. I do not object to this Bill in spirit. I appreciate the special circumstances in which this Bill is brought before this House. But we feel sorry about the necessity to bring forward such a Bill in this House, in our country, which is the largest democratic country in the entire world. In fact, our country is the land of Buddha; it is the land of Mahatma Gandhi who had shown a path of non-violence to the entire world. But, unfortunately, today, the circumstances have undergone a sea change. Just now the Hon. Minister has quoted a particular incident that occurred today in Delhi, the Capital City. Every day, we are hearing so many things and this House has discussed so many times violence that is being unleashed by some elements in some parts of our country.

It is really a pathetic scene to find, to observe the Prime Minister of this country speaking from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the Independence Day in a bullet-proof enclosure. Not only there, at several other places, wherever he went to address some election meetings, there also he had to take the assistance of the bullet-proof enclosure. It is really a very pitiable picture for the people of this country that the Prime Minister should face such a security risk. We are

one and also share the feelings of the members of the Treasury Benches. I do admit that the present circumstances are not the same as they were in the days of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of this country. He was loved by one and all. Even his opponents in the opposition parties, the leaders who differed with his policies held him in the highest esteem; they were having a lot of reverence for him. Whenever he used to go to the masses for participating in the meetings, in any government programmes or election meetings, wherever he went, he used to mingle with the people : Then there was some security arrangement even in those days, but there were security people in plain clothes. It was the people who were the real guards to him. It was because of the affection and dedication to that man, nobody could dare to do any harm to that great man. Unfortunately, the situation has changed subsequently, especially from the time of the previous Prime Minister.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad) : Are you advocating that we should give a red carpet treatment to terrorists ?

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Why should you put your words into my mouth ? I am sorry. You have not understood it at all. I am supporting the Bill. Partly due to the style of functioning of the previous Prime Minister, some circumstances had occurred when during the introduction of emergency in this country fundamental rights were taken away. (Interruptions) Not terrorists. I am speaking on the Bill for giving protection to the Prime Minister of this country; I am not speaking about terrorists. You should certainly appreciate it. During that Emergency, unfortunately, the Fundamental Rights of the people were taken away. I will not go into the details. But even the Supreme Court had said that as long as such an Emergency was there, 'the Court cannot assure the citizen of Fundamental Rights'.

And so, the Press censorship was there. Even in the British days some of those provisions were not there. But during the Emergency days due to Press censorship

people in some parts of the country did not know what was happening in Delhi. People in some parts of the country did not know what was going on in some other parts of the country. And because of some such circumstances, due to the Government's policy decisions, and later due to the Operation Blue Star at the Golden Temple the situation had taken a bad turn and in fact, if strong action had been taken much earlier, I think it would have had a different impact on the State of Punjab and upon the minds of the people of Punjab.

I will not go into the details. But what I want to impress upon the House is that certain decisions, certain actions of the previous Government have resulted in a very sorry state of affairs, whereby the life of the Prime Minister of this country was endangered. And ultimately this country really lost a great leader, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Her own security people taking her life! That is the biggest tragedy. Never before had it happened like that. May be, the President of the United States of America, John Kennedy might have succumbed to the bullets of some fellow. And even our own Father of the Nation, he was killed by one fanatic. But the Prime Minister's security guards killing the Prime Minister! That is really unthinkable. And, though the present Prime Minister is really in no way connected with all these developments, but unfortunately some misguided elements are trying to cause harm to him.

And on the 2nd October, 1985 when he and the President of India went to Rajghat to pay homage to the Father of the Nation, we know what happened then. Again on 29th July, 1987 in Sri Lanka while he was taking the Guard of Honour, there again one attempt was made on his life. This country really felt so sad and was astonished. The irony is the Hon. Minister stated that this Special Protection Group was formed in April 1985 itself!

On the 2nd October, 1986, really it was only a miracle that the Prime Minister and the President survived the bullets of the home-made pistol of Karamjeet Singh. He remained there for the whole night. He was sitting on a canopy under the cover of

a creeper, in spite of the Special Protection Group and in spite of the National Security Guards and several other forces which were expected to take care of everything, every aspect, including the movement of the Prime Minister going along a particular route. Somehow, they failed. If really something had happened on that day, then the consequences would be beyond our comprehension. What I impress upon the Government is, let not this type of lapses recur in future and let adequate precautions be taken so that this type of defects do not repeat in safeguarding the life of the Prime Minister of this country.

Sir, I would like to say one word. If we analyse, why Karamjeet Singh has done this. Our information is that he admitted that he was taking vengeance for the death of one of his relatives, who was killed in 1984 riots in Delhi. More than 2,200 people were killed. This was the Government report. There may be many more people who might have lost their lives in those riots, I believe
(Interruptions)

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad) : It is *sub judice*.

The Supreme Court is hearing the appeal
(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : High Court.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA : (Tamiluk) : Not a single person is arrested so far ..
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If at all it is *sub judice*, it would not go on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : I have not said anything which is *sub judice* (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If at all there is any *sub judice* matter, it would not go on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad) : He is appreciating the evidence here. It is the job of the Supreme Court. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : My point is, he was hurt because of the death of his relative in Delhi. Suppose, if he actually had some collusion with terrorists, who are having very very sophisticated arms, even our ArmeJ forces are not having it.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Try to conclude.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, I have just started it. I want some more time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Only two minutes are left. Let him take it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not think he will finish within two minutes. His demand is that he requires some more time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, what I want to impress upon this is, on that fateful day, October 2, 1986, if Karamjeet Singh was having a very powerful weapon, then what would have been the fate of this country. This is what I am telling. Since he was having a country-made pistol, which was not very powerful, our President and Prime Minister survived. In spite of the first shot, the Army people, the Special Protection Group people, NSG people and Commanded forces were there and everybody heard it, but they did not prevent the Prime Minister from going further, and instead, he still proceeded, and again there was shot. It was really a miracle that they survived. My only point is that this type of lapses should not occur in future. I hope this type of situation will not continue for ever.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please continue tomorrow.

Now, Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari will make a statement.

18.00 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PAY AN INSTALMENT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : Sir, on the basis of the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, as accepted by the Government for Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' of Central Government employees, dearness allowance at the revised rates has become due for consideration with effect from 1.1.1988, on the basis of percentage increase in whole numbers in the twelve monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (General) (Base 1060=100) for the period ending 31.12.1987 over the index average of 608, the base figure to which the revised pay scales are pegged. The twelve monthly average Consumer Price Index for the period ending 31.12.1987 is 719.25 which works out to an increase of 18.29 per cent over 608. Employees drawing basic pay upto Rs. 3500/- are to be allowed 100 per cent neutralisation and those drawing basic pay between Rs. 3501/- and Rs. 6000/- 75 per cent and those drawing basic pay above Rs 6000/- 65 per cent and are, therefore entitled to the revised D.A. of 18 per cent, 13 per cent and 11 per cent of basic pay respectively with effect from 1.1.1988 as against 13 per cent, 9 per cent and 8 per cent of basic pay respectively from 1.7 1987.

Government have decided to pay the instalment of dearness allowance due to Groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' employees from 1.1.1988 in cash. Orders in this