

[Shri Rajiv Gandhi]

The Government of India believe that, despite some problems and delays, many of which were foreseen but unavoidable in the resolution of an issue of this magnitude and complexity, this Agreement represents the only way of safeguarding legitimate Tamil interests and ensuring a durable peace in Sri Lanka. Some have chosen to criticise the Agreement. None has shown a better way to meeting the legitimate aspirations of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, restoring peace in that country and of meeting our own security concerns in the region. We have accepted a role which is difficult, but which is in our national interest to discharge. We shall not shirk our obligations and commitments. This is a national endeavour. I am confident our efforts will have the full support of this House.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam): Why do you not announce ceasefire for 48 hours or 72 hours? It has been requested by my hon. Chief Minister.

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU (Madras North): Why don't you stop the killings and call the LTTE for negotiation?

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow we shall discuss it. We are going to have a discussion tomorrow.

Shri Mewa Singh Gill.  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No question. Tomorrow we shall allow discussion. Please sit down.

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU: Hundreds of people may be killed overnight.  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Sit down. Please take your seat now. No rules allow it. No question. We shall have discussion tomorrow. That is what I have said.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down. It is all right. It cannot be done now.

16.28 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. APPROVAL OF CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF PUNJAB — *Contd.*

[English]

SHRI M.S. GILL (Ludhiana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a believer in the basic principles of parliamentary democracy and basic ethical values of the institution I would not have supported the imposition or extension of President's rule in Punjab but for certain reasons which are compelling and the circumstances are such that I have no option except to support the present resolution seeking to extend the President's rule in Punjab for another six months.

16.29 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

At the time when the promulgation of the President's rule was sought in May, 1987, I supported the motion for those very reasons and those very reasons are still existing there. Therefore, I am supporting this Motion. I am giving the reasons for the same and please listen to these reasons.

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA: United Akali Dal can never support President's rule or extension of the President's rule through this resolution which has been brought in the House. Shri M. S. Gill's views are his personal views, not the views of the United Akali Dal.

SHRI M. S. GILL: Now the people will know whether I am speaking on behalf of my party and my own self because they know the real position.

There were compelling reasons when the legislation for imposition of President's rule was made and those reasons are still existing in Punjab and that is why the period of extension is mentioned for a period of six months. Now, what are the reasons?

The reason is, there is no single party in Punjab which alone could form

a popular Government. Barnala Government was only a minority Government. They had only 37 Members. That Government was supported by the Congress. So long as Congress thought it proper, they supported it and, in my view, there was absolutely no difference between the Central Government's rule and Barnala Government so far as Punjab was concerned because Barnala having had the support of the Congress was always compelled to do all those things which the Central Government wanted him to do in Punjab and, therefore, to call it a popular Government would be a misnomer altogether. He invariably acted at the instance of the Central Government in all these matters simply to keep himself in the Chair. Therefore, popular Government is not possible under the present circumstances. Moreover, the Government was dismissed on two major grounds. One that the Ministers of Barnala Government were involved in rampant corruption and the other is that some of the Ministers had links with the terrorists. Some Ministers were busy in corrupt practices. This was one of the grounds of the promulgation. Some of the Ministers are found to having connection with the terrorists. This was the second reason for the dismissal of the Ministry in May, 1987. An assurance was given by the Home Minister on the floor of this House that action would be taken against those Ministers who were found guilty of corrupt practices. But unfortunately in spite of this assurance, all the action was only against one Minister and no other action was taken against the other Ministers although there was ample evidence with the Government and Central authorities. Therefore, we cannot just revert to that situation which we have got rid of with great difficulty.

With these words, I support the resolution for the extension for a period of six months with the reservation that atrocities on the people and suppression of the people will be stopped. Suppression was also there at the time of Barnala. There have been excesses on the part of the police at the time of Barnala Government because Barnala himself never went to the people. He himself ruled the State by sitting in one room having a guard of 345 people

around him. All these things were there. These are in continuation of the same process. Now, I request the Central Government and the Home Minister to look into the suppression and atrocities being committed on the people and redress the wrong done to them.

I would like to request the hon. Minister that these fake encounters and killing of innocent people should be stopped. Howsoever there is a rule of law, this cannot be simply said that because there is well-founded suspicion against a person, he should be eliminated. Even if it is a well-founded suspicion, the course of law has to be adopted there. But, unfortunately, this has not been done in that State. This, the Home Minister and the Central Government may please take note of and in the coming six months when they are going to have the President's rule in Punjab, they may claim to have a way out and they have already claimed that they have achieved a lot of the ground there. But so far as the elimination of the extremists is concerned, the repetition should be stopped for good. It should not be left to the Police only or to the Para-military forces. The forces of law, the forces of justice should be allowed to play their part and they should be allowed to play their role as according to the Constitution and as according to the legal system of the State.

With these words, I support the Resolution.

Thank you,

[Translation]

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI (Sikkim) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing the resolution to extend the President's Rule for the next 6 months. We have discussed the Punjab problem on several previous occasions as well. I don't think that it is appropriate to repeat what has already been said by other Members before me. I only want to submit that the unfortunate situation arising out of anarchy and terrorism there should be put to an end. This is not only the demand of the hon. Members of this House but of every citizen of this

[Shrimati D.K. Bhandari]

country. However, I think that merely extending the duration of President's Rule will not solve the problem and the President's Rule should not be the way out because Punjab problem is a political problem and its solution should be found at the political level.

We have many other examples of similar problems like the Mizoram issue which was also a political problem and which was solved in a very peaceful manner by the Central Government through negotiations with Mr. Laldenga. Similarly, the Centre is negotiating with the leaders of Gorkhaland agitation and I am fully hopeful that a peaceful settlement will be found to this problem also. Similarly, regarding the Punjab problem, why does not the Central Government hold talks with the various political leaders for solving the imbroglio in that State.

I take this opportunity to request you that irrespective of which group we negotiate with, the interest of the country should be of paramount importance and not that of any party. The reason why I think so is that I have observed on many occasions that if in a particular State, the opposition is in power, the Central Government takes the advantage of such occasions to show that only the Government at the Centre is committed to the interests of the nation and the State Governments only consist of anti-social and anti-national elements. This should not happen.

We have established a federal structure in the country. Under this set up, it is not necessary that the same party should be in power at the Centre as well as in the States. It is possible to have different Governments in the States. In this situation, it is the duty of the Central Government to have full faith in the State Government and render full assistance in the solution of its problems irrespective of whether an opposition party is in a particular State. By always having an attitude of mistrust, doubt and hatred, we harm our federal structure and weakens it. Therefore, I want to suggest that when the democratic system has been adopted in our country and the federal structure

has been accepted, then it becomes essential to have a relationship based on mutual trust, confidence and cooperation between the Centre and the States, and not that of hatred, mistrust and non-cooperation. Thus, while expressing my opinion on this resolution, I want to submit that President's Rule should not be seen as a solution to a political problem.

[English]

Dr. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Sir, I rise to oppose the continuance of the President's rule in Punjab. I do not think we will be able to rule Punjab or any other part of our country at the point of gun. In the last six months, about 5,000 people were arrested and 100 terrorists were killed. Because of police action, all these young people are going outside the national mainstream. During the President's rule about 840 people were killed. We dismissed the Barnala Ministry because 79 people were killed in one month. Now the ratio of killing of the people has definitely gone up by about fifty percent during the President's rule. Are you going to rule Punjab by giving all the powers to Mr. Ribeiro or any other police Commissioner? During his interview, Mr. Ribeiro has stated, "I am here to control terrorism or whatever it is my job". I do not think that such type of police action you can control this. Here the Government has failed. Now the terrorists have been insulated; all the politicians are now criticising people like Mr. Badal and Mr. Tohra. Now the atmosphere has come where the terrorists are isolated. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to use this atmosphere to have dialogue not with the terrorists but with all other people in whatever way he thinks fit. It should be within the framework of our Constitution; Punjab is a part of this country. Now the stage has come where the terrorists have kicked even all those who have supported them. Therefore, all those people will come collectively to have the dialogue with the Government.

I would like to mention some of the things which are happening there. AK-47 type of rifles—they are from Pakistan—the Belgium automatic pistol, the German

and American revolvers, all such types of weapons are supplied to the terrorists from foreign countries. I do not know what your Border Force is doing. You are spending about Rs. 12,000 crores on them. What are they doing? The border should have been sealed. I am sorry to say that such type of things are creating complications in solving the issue. Government has failed in sealing the border and in preventing such weapons coming from outside. What action is Government going to take to isolate the terrorists from all these things?

It is a good step that the Government has taken in respect of the Golden Temple. The Golden Temple was being used to seek refuge after committing all types of murders and other bad things. But that should not be done by keeping the police chowki there. By that, psychologically, the religious feelings of the Sikhs would be hurt. Therefore, it should be done in a more intelligent way.

I want to make another point. More than a thousand people were arrested at the time of the Blue Star Operation, and an assurance was given by the Government that they would be released. CBI inquiries were done and assurances were given by the Ministers when meetings were held on Punjab. But I do not think you have released them. I think, some of them have already died. Therefore, Government should take some conscious view about releasing all these people or at least those against whom there are not serious cases.

In this House, the anti-Terrorist Act was passed. Even the police officer's version can be taken as an evidence there. Such type of law was framed, discussed and passed in this House. I am sorry to say that the anti-Terrorist Act has been used to arrest about 1800 people in the Gujarat State. It is really shocking. Are you going to run this country with all these laws? This is nothing but the failure of the Government. The police cannot rule this country, the para-military forces cannot rule this country. You should not hand over such laws and such powers to the police.

I am sorry to say that in Maharashtra, in Gadcholi district, the anti-Terrorist Act has been employed. For the Reliance Cup, the finals of which were played yesterday, a few crores of rupees were collected. When the workers demanded Rs. 70 which amount was given to the other textile workers, the management of the Reliance Industry at Ahmedabad refused to give that and the workers went on strike. The Gujarat Police then arrested the trade union leaders under the anti-Terrorist Act. Sir, when the Act was discussed in this House, it was assured by the Minister that the National Security Act will not be used against the trade unions and the people who fight for this. But, at that time, I was arrested four times under the National Security Act. But that is a different action. You are misusing the law and are misusing the act. The same Act you have misused to arrest the Reliance workers. Again it was told to the leader that the remaining 25 workers will be arrested if they come near the gate. Therefore, you have done a mess with this so-called Accord. I ask the Hon. Home Minister a question: "Are you going to bring peace in Punjab by giving powers to the police and para-military force by killing the terrorists?" You want another six months. You want to waste another six months. Are you going to get peace in Punjab? Are you going to hand-over this country to the police? I think this is shocking. I totally oppose such type of move.

Another thing I ask from the Hon. Minister is that what solution is he going to bring in? How are you going to take the people into confidence? You cannot have the same type of attitude as you are taking towards employees. The Government has taken a stand that they will not talk to trade unions, they will not talk to teachers' association. During the textile strike, you had taken the stand that you would not talk to Dr. Samant. I think this is adamancy. You find out some solution. Now the time has come that terrorists and all the factions are separated. Even terrorists may change their views and they may talk within the Constitution that Punjab should be in India. That way, there will be some solution. Therefore,

[Dr. Datta Samant]

while opposing the issue. I again appeal to the Hon. Minister that you find out some political solution to solve this issue.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to all those hon. Members who have participated in the discussion on this resolution which has afforded an opportunity once again to all the political parties in the House to express their views on a very serious problem in the country.

Just now an hon. Member from Maharashtra was speaking who is not well informed about the Punjab situation as about observing bandhs, strikes and putting road blocks, etc.

SHRI DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): There is not other way.

[English]

Are you going to run the country by police and para-military forces?

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH: That is why I think that perhaps he does not know anything except this.

In order to understand the Punjab problem, we should study the situation prevailing there. Prof. Dandavate has made certain points. It is time to assess the situation in Punjab. I have given the details of what happened in Punjab during the last 6 months of President's Rule. But the hon. Members while expressing their views have stated that the Government does not believe in democracy and wants to run the administration through the police. I want to put a question especially to Shri Dinesh Goswami that when the election in Punjab were announced in 1985 then you people stated that on the one hand, the people were being killed and on the other, the great leader of this country, Shri Rajiv Gandhi with his firm

faith in democracy, decided to go ahead with the elections despite all odds and to give an opportunity to the people of Punjab to establish a popular Government in that State. Prior to that, it was the Congress Government at the Centre which took initiative to hold elections in Assam to which Shri Dinesh Goswami himself represents. Your friends were indulging in violent activities in these days. You know very well as to who took the decision to hold Assembly elections and establish a popular Government in Assam. The credit for this goes to the Congress Party. Then how do you say and from which angle can you justify that we do not believe in democracy and the public opinion.

In Punjab we not only affirmed our faith in democracy but also installed a popular Government there. As Ramowaliaji and Mewaji have just now stated that the Government there was not being run by Barnala but was being run by the Congress Party and the Central Government. From this it is clear that we did not want to see the downfall of the popular Government in Punjab. But you know the circumstances under which we had to take that drastic step?

Today, the Punjab problem is not that of merely law and order. But Shri Indrajit always say that it is a law and order problem.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): I do not say so.

S. BUTA SINGH: You are senior to me and more experienced. If it was merely a law and order problem then perhaps we would not have requested the House again and again to make special provisions. I do not agree with him at all. We do not want to impose President's Rule or Governor's Rule in the States by invoking special provisions. We are also as patriotic as you are. We also want to have democratic system of Government in the country. We have to take such a drastic step when the situation goes out of control. We praised Barnalaji in one voice. We praise him even today. We praise him because he adhered

to a great principle. He used to say that administration could not be run on the dictates of the religious leaders. It will be run on the dictates of the people and their representatives only. It has been a laudable step. We praise him even today. You know that one of the senior Ministers in the Barnala Cabinet publically criticised the Police Commissioner of Punjab and asked for his prosecution and dismissal also. But the Barnala Government could not do anything to check him. I had then Stated that it was not merely a case of indiscipline but also an attempt to demoralise the Punjab Police which was trying to solve a very difficult problem under the leadership of Mr. Ribeiro. After this, there were many incidents in which the members of the Barnala Ministry were involved. It was also proved that some of the Ministers had links with the terrorists and were encouraging them. In such a situation if we had shown any laxity, then things would have gone from bad to worse. I had myself as well as through this House also warned Barnalaji at that time but, unfortunately, no efforts were made to improve the situation. Then with great hesitation we had to take this strong step. If we had not taken this step, we would have been failing in our duty. I would like to point out to Shri Dinesh Goswami that under such circumstances if any party in power had not taken this step, it would have meant that it was not fulfilling their duty. So, we had to take this step and you might have seen that as soon as we took this step, the administration became vigilant and active and it faced the situation boldly. As I have just stated that it is not a law and order problem. I would like to dwell upon the logic behind it. Terrorists are not fighting for the release of some detenus who are behind bars or for the implementation of the accord concluded with Shaheed Sant Longowal. They have never made such a demand. The hon. Member Shri Ramoowalia is sitting here. Terrorists have faith neither in the accord, nor in the State Assembly of Punjab, nor in the Government of Punjab and nor in the Constitution of the country. If I read out their decisions, you will come to know the purpose and the principles, for which and the basis and the declarations on which they are fighting.

You want that we should start dialogue with them when they are talking in such a way. Whatever resolutions they have passed till date, they have supported the division of the country. Secondly they do not want to hold talks with the Central Government short of Khalistan. Thirdly they have said that the Panthic Committee of which every member is not only a terrorist but also have a link with the elements across the border where a number of Centres are being run to impart training and give arms and money to young persons. They are being trained to handle explosive materials. The five members of the Panthic Committee have established liaison with the anti-national forces who smuggle arms, money, explosive materials into the country to spread terrorism. They arrange to give training to the youth and they have international links. They have links with the Council for Khalistan. Perhaps there is not a single member in the council who belongs to this country. Some belong to Europe, some to America and some to other countries. They have established links with such elements and you say that we should hold talks with them.

The President of the Janata Party Shri Chandra Shekhar visited Punjab and unfortunately he chose that day when the resolution, to which I am referring was passed by the Panthic Committee. Their resolution says that the Panthic Committee can take whatever decisions they like. Under the Act, the S.G.P.C. enjoys the authority to look after the management of the Golden Temple. But the Panthic Committee has replaced SGPC and has taken over all the powers in regard to the appointment and dismissal of priests. The priests have endorsed all the resolution passed by the Panthic Committee. Shri Chandra Shekharji held a press conference in Amritsar and advocated that talks should be held with the three head priests and they should not be arrested. Many a times I am surprised how could a coincidence take place in such a manner that the day the five priests are endorsing the decision of the Panthic Committee, the same day Shri Chandra Shekharji, the President of the Janta Party lands in Amritsar,

[English]

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY** (Mahbubnagar) : Sir, the Home Minister is putting the whole thing in a wrong perspective. Our party President, Shri Chandra Shekhar went to Punjab in regard to 'Shanti Morcha' of Yuva Janta. It was only a coincidence. He is trying to read too much and suggest too much.

**S. BUTA SINGH** : I am not reading too much. I am only trying to place before the House what happened which you say is a coincidence. How could a coincidence take place in such a manner that the day the five priests are endorsing the decision of the Panthic Committee, the same day, Shri Chandra Sekharji lands in Amritsar, holds a talk with them? ...*(Interruption)*... You had your say. Now please sit down. I will explain... *(Interruptions)*... No, no, you can't have this kind of thing. He held a meeting with them inside the Golden Temple.

17.00 hrs.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY** : What are you trying to drive at?

**S. BUTA SINGH** : I am trying to drive at that these are the things which you must understand...*(Interruptions)* You must understand before you speak.  
*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Order, order.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY** : What is the Home Minister talking about?

**S. BUTA SINGH** : Jaipalji, please be seated. What I am talking about, I will let you know. You should know what you are talking about.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY** : Home Minister of India is speaking in an irresponsible manner...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Nothing doing.

**S. BUTA SINGH** : I will refrain from speaking in a manner that Janata Party

President has spoken in Amritsar. Sir, Sir, I am just saying that you should realise the situation. How will the people of Punjab take it? Those priests who are endorsing the resolutions of the Panthic Committee, held a meeting with the President of the Janta Party inside the Golden Temple and out comes the President, gives a press conference to the effect that these priests are innocent, that they have no link with the extremists, that there is no weapon with the people inside the Golden Temple. I am sure, sir, he must have been taken blindfolded inside because everyone who has gone, has described the inside atmosphere of the Golden Temple as "horrible". Even now, Dr. Datta Samant, with whom I don't agree on most of the points, was saying about the things which are happening inside the Golden Temple. Everybody knows. And of all, the President of the Janta Party should go and issue a certificate without verifying. That's what I am trying to say. You must realise the gravity of the situation. It is not a law and order situation. We are trying to fight against these forces which are out to destroy this country, which are out to fragment this country.

[Translation]

That is why I am saying this that it is not a law and order problem and neither we treat it as such. Speaking on the law and order situation, I said that there was an improvement in it than before. Now these people say that dialogue should be started with them. I have no objection provided Shri Chandra Shekharji is able to get the decisions of the Panthic Committee withdrawn, get back their weapons, get their faith on terrorism ended and get the hundreds of people killed by them revived, only by then we will start talks with them. With whom should we have talks? Should we talk with such persons who go on killing the innocents? With whom should we hold negotiations?

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY** : Mr. Home Minister, you kindly talk to all those people who killed thousands of innocent Sikhs in November 1984. ...

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Waliaji has said just now that when the Government can hold negotiations with Shri Laldenga, then what is the hitch in having a dialogue with them. I want to give a reply to this point also.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Chandra Shekharji is not here, he is not a Member of this House, so is it proper to say about him? He might not be knowing what is being said about him. (Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : I have to say so because Prof. Dandavateji had referred to the attitude of their party. So I said with whom talks should be started. While referring to its background if I have to say what happened 15 days back, I think there is no harm in it.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If you don't mind, you have full freedom to express your point of view and nobody would object to that. But the question is that when you draw such a ridiculous conclusion, will he able to revive all those lives, of those 2000 people who died in November? It will be a ridiculous proposition. You are at liberty to draw your colleagues' conclusions.

S. BUTA SINGH : Even at the cost of having some kind of teaching with the Professor, I must say that it is my agony that how ridiculous an idea was expressed by Shri Chandra Sekhar that we should have talks with those killers. The mere idea is very ridiculous. We can never have talks with those who have killed innocent people. And Sir, this is the crux of it.

[Translation]

Shri Waliaji has said just now that when the Government can hold talks with Shri Laldenga in Mizoram then what is the hitch in having talks with them. First, I would like to ask Shri Waliaji, is he competent to speak on their behalf? Secondly, he might have forgotten that

when we started talks with Shri Laldenga, it was on the basis that they would not only objure violence but also delete 'Separate Mizoram' words from the constitution of their party and only then we would start dialogue with them.

[English]

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA (Patiala) : I requested the Prime Minister that he should not follow double policy.

S. BUTA SINGH : The talks with Shri Laldenga were only on the condition that violence must be stopped and he must amend the Constitution giving up the separate Mizoram demand and only then we can talk. Can you bring a resolution from the Panthic Committee that we give up Khalistan, give up violence? If so, you can make a proposition.

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA : You have concluded treaties and accords in Sri Lanka where violence was in full swing. I do not believe in preaching violence but you signed the accord in Sri Lanka when there was violence in full swing... (Interruptions) ..You may not agree with me but have the courage to listen to what I say. I was quoting before you Mr. Mann; I was quoting before Badal and so many other leaders, you Mr. They have never preached violence, advocated violence and have never challenged the Constitution. Did you ever talk to them? This is the price you have given them.

S. BUTA SINGH: My problem is that most of my hon. colleagues have never verified what they are talking about while putting their views here. You are talking about Badal and Thora. Less said the better. Who does not know that Shri Thora is one person who has been behind anti-national movements. (Interruptions) You want me to give the list; If so, I require atleast three hours. Who brought this Panthic Committee into being? Who handed over SGPC? When somebody makes a charge, I must put things straight.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What did you do? You must have arrested him and got him prosecuted.



**S. BUTA SINGH :** Precisely, that was done. Who brought this Panthic Committee inside the Golden Temple? Was it not Mr. Tohra? Was he not responsible for handing over the whole complex? Was he not responsible for allowing them to have Sarbat Khalsa inside the complex? (*Interruptions*)

Let this be understood once for all that those who are responsible for putting these ideas into the minds of the younger people must now pay the price for it. These people, these big leaders, are now trying to sell the idea that the innocent people are getting killed. But who misled them? Having misled them, they fled and these youngsters have been made a pawn in the game. And now these youngsters are no more on their own, they are playing in the hands of enemies of India across the border. Therefore, to fight out terrorism in Punjab is not a mere law and order problem; it is a national problem. Mr. Ribeiro has been single-handedly mobilizing not only Punjab police, but the Central Police organizations also and he has done a fine job for the country and we must pay a tribute to him.

Shri Ramoowalia and Shri Walia mentioned about the encounters. Yes, press reports have appeared; contradictions have also appeared. At the same time, Punjab Governor and the Punjab Director General, Police, have also made it known to the public.

[*Translation*]

Recently Shri Ribeiro has toured the entire State and asked the people to bring these encounters wherever they accure to the Government's notice. If such encounters are brought to the notice of the Government, proper action will be taken. A case has been registered about the recent encounter at Mohall. Similarly, Shri Ramoowalia has started about the Surat Singh case. Not only was the case filed and investigation undertaken but also a compensation of Rs. 1 lakh was granted. You can understand as to what this thing shows.

[*English*]

The Punjab Government does not brush it aside; they go deep into the whole thing and due action is taken and the course is followed and even compensation is paid to the innocent people who have been killed.

[*Translation*]

It is, therefore, not proper to incite the misled youths in Punjab by saying again and again that innocent people are being killed. Whoever have been killed in encounters were mostly those who carry awards on their heads.

**SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :** We are suggesting that the terrorists should be isolated.

[*English*]

**S. BUTA SINGH :** Therefore, I am saying Shri Ramoowaliaji that this kind of propaganda also cuts on the other side. Yes, we must put restraint on the law enforcing agencies, they must use discretion, but at the same time why go on beating this publicity specially every day? Now, an offer has been made by the authorities that if anybody brings a case, that case will be looked into. Maharaja Amrinder Singh met the Governor and made a complaint. The Governor told him to bring a list of such cases and he would get them verified. That list has not seen the light of the day as yet. The Governor has not been given that list. It is one thing to go on saying. This kind of atmosphere is being created by certain sections who are out to create this kind of wedge between the administration and the rest of people in Punjab.

I must say that the people of Punjab have been fighting a most dangerous battle for the past six years. There has been loss of lives in Punjab, innocent people have been killed, wayside people have been killed. But this House must also place on record the brotherhood, the deep sympathy of the people of Punjab, both Hindus and Sikhs and not a single communal riot has taken place worth the name. This also shows that the people in

[Translation]

Punjab have a lot of affection for each other. To say that he is a Hindu and he is a Sikh, I do not believe it. If Hinduism is a tree, then Sikhism is a flower. We cannot separate a flower from a tree.

Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikh religion. What happened during his funeral? The people belonging to both religions attended the funeral because Hindus as well as Muslims have faith in him. At last when his end arrived his body could not be found and when the memorial was constructed, it was inscribed on it :

“Nanak shah fakir, Hindu ka Guru ;  
Musalman ka Pir”.

Such was the reverence and such were the feelings which the people had for him. From where the Sikhs have emerged? It is said that Sikh religion is separate. Such feelings are being spread among the people. But majority of the Sikhs today are Hindu converts. Some conversions may have taken place from other religions as well. What is happening today? What are the fundamentalists doing through their propaganda of ‘Amrit Prachar’? Traditionally, Hindus and others have been converted into Sikhs but today the Sikhs are being converted into fundamentalists and terrorists. It is seen for the first time that Sikhs are being converted into Sikhs. The fundamentalists now do not convert Hindus because they are making propaganda against Hinduism, against Hindu scriptures and against their Gods. Hindus are, therefore, not ready for conversion. So the Sikhs are being converted into neo-Sikhism. Hence, it is essential to understand the Sikh psyche in Punjab today.

Again, hundreds of Hindu families used to visit Harminder Sahib to offer prayers everyday, but now the terrorists have closed the doors for them. Even those Sikhs, who do not keep long hair are afraid of going into this temple. The problem of terrorism in Punjab is not merely a law and order problem. Just now it has been said that Police entered the Golden temple complex. But I want to point out that these people should not judge the situation through newspaper

reports only. They should go there and see the situation in the Golden Temple and in Amritsar. The duly elected Prabandhak Committee is not allowed to function in Amritsar.

[English]

They cannot enter the Golden Temple Complex.

[Translation]

The elected Management committee is functioning from Chandigarh, their office has been shifted to Chandigarh. If we want to know the names of their regular employees we will have to go to the Archives. They have been ousted and new employees have been appointed after taking over the office. It is essential to know what is going on there. Prof. Dandavateji, I have not said anything tauntingly but I have said so because it is a very serious problem and should not be treated so lightly. Now, as regards political solution, there is no doubt about it that all parties have jointly started a campaign in this regard.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I spoke with least provocation. I spoke with a sombre note. I did not provoke anyone but unfortunately you did not grasp me.

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : I am also saying the same thing. Should I not place the background before you? The Hon. Speaker went there 15 days back, should I not mention it and even if I don't, the people of Punjab are aware of this fact.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You are trying to misinterpret.

S. BUTA SINGH : No, I am not trying to misinterpret ; I am only trying to place it before the House.

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : If Shri Chandrashekhar ji says that he did not say so, then I will withdraw my statement.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :  
There is no question of saying so.....  
(Interruptions)

[English]

Do they think by shouting they can calm us down ?

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : Therefore, it is my request to you that if we look at figures they may not be satisfactory. There is no doubt that there has been a spurt in killings but at the same time the area of activities of terrorists has been reduced to a large extent. Now we get intelligence reports from the people who are no longer afraid of registering reports in the police stations. Political interference has been eliminated. Now we do not find 2 or 3 terrorists going to the circuit house in a car of a Minister to threaten the S.Ps. and D.S. Ps. Now this is no longer happening. Now they know that if someone is followed, he would not be allowed to remain on this side of the border. Hence, there has been a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the overall situation and for this we had to pay a greater price because when someone retreats he hits back with a greater force. We know that more difficult times may lie ahead. Still I assure you that a day will come and it will not be very far when terrorists, separatists, and anti-national forces will be rooted out completely. Thus confidence has been created in the people today...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE  
(Bolpur) : We also want the same but when and how it will happen.

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : The confidence has been created among the people. This is the first step. Now I tell you how these forces will be reported out. The Governor of Punjab has formed more than 2000 Peace and Development committees which are represented by all parties. Not only the administration people, the S. Ps. and D.S.Ps but the local leaders at the block and district levels are also included in them. Their job is to solve the local problems of every

village and to check the growing influence of terrorism through persuasion and mass contact. There are cases where villagers armed with lathis have killed terrorists armed with stenguns. Such a confidence has been created. I don't want to take much time. To-day, raids are being conducted regularly and in a planned manner on the hideouts of terrorists. Those who are giving shelter to the terrorists are also being punished. The paramilitary forces have been deployed in greater strength and given legal powers so as to enable them to deal with any terrorist effectively. Punjab was declared a disturbed area on 24th June 1987. Along with it, all the criminals and the various terrorists groups have been indentified. The para-military forces have been deployed to keep vigilance at all the possible hideouts of the terrorists. This has helped in checking their movement. Over a dozen notorious terrorists have been killed in encounters or apprehended and this has a good effect. Their leaders who had links not only inside the country but also outside have been eliminated. The Dal Khalsa and the National Council of Khalistan have been banned, patrolling of police and para-military forces has been intensified. Those preaching terrorism in Gurdwaras are being dealt with sternly and they are being dealt with in the same way as in the case of terrorists. As a result, such poisonous anti-national propaganda is not to be found even in ordinary Gurdwaras. Special officers have been deputed to try the cases. The State Government has taken many more effective steps to root out this hateful menace of terrorism. As I have submitted Peace and Development Committees have been organised which include members of all the political parties and workers, and the Deputy Commissioner, the S.P., etc. take on the spot decisions in them. The DIG and D.G. (Police) of that range themselves attend the Vigilance Committee meetings. The suggestion given by Shri Indrajit Gupta is also being considered that what measures should be taken for the security of the people in the rural as well as urban areas and in the backward areas, particularly the people living along the river side area, called 'Mand area'. It is being considered that a

village force should be organised so that they may be supplied arms to combat terrorism. There is a provision to provide funds upto Rs 2 lakhs to these committees as monetary incentive. Any person taking action against any terrorist or giving information about him is rewarded Rs. 20 thousand. These committees are proving quite successful and a lot of information is being received by the Punjab Government through them. This system has proved quite advantageous to the Government and the para-military forces deployed in our border areas like Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Ferozepur, Faridkot, etc. Some of the hon. Members have said that the people falling victims to the terrorists in Punjab are not provided prompt relief. For this there are proper guidelines with the Punjab Government. The members of the family of the deceased are given Rs. 20 thousand, the seriously injured are provided Rs. 5 thousand each, whereas people with lesser injuries are given Rs. 2 thousand each. For the burnt houses, factories, etc., an extra provision in addition to insurance has been made. In this way the Government of Punjab have spent Rs. 6.5 crores on these things. It is not that the families of the killed innocent people are left in the lurch without any support.

Many families had left Punjab. Majority of them had migrated to Delhi. Of them 125 families have returned to Punjab. Other families are also gaining confidence. Around 300 more families are ready to go back to Punjab. They are being helped fully. Under that assistance, ex-gratia grant of Rs. 5 thousand, Rs. 2500 as transportation charges and a bank loan of Rs. 25 thousand are provided to such families. Of this, Rs. 5 thousands are paid as subsidy. It has been provided that if those families who have migrated to other States, return to Punjab, they are given Lower Income Group houses. Similarly :

[English]

- (i) LIG houses are also given on concessional terms including its repayment period for 25 years instead of normal repayment period of ten years;

- (2) Assistance is also given in matters of admission for the school-going children;

Issue of individual arms licence for self-protection also, if necessary, is given to these people.

[Translation]

In this way 273 families have already returned to Punjab from Delhi and other places. Efforts are on to see that all such families go back to Punjab.

Hon. Members have expressed their views on President's Rule. We too do not want that President's Rule may continue for long because it is not a long-term solution of the problem. But at the same time the most important thing at this time is to protect life and property of the people and to sustain the unity and integrity of the country. We will not hesitate to take the strictest possible step, if necessary. Several political parties like the CPI, CPI (M), Congress, BJP have cooperated with us. The Janata party had cooperated with us in the beginning but later on they withdrew it. Shri Dandavate, what can I do? Now you will say that I am taunting but it is true that the Janata party initially cooperated with us.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I do not mind joining in the debate... (Interruptions). But they should realise that my shouting will help.

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : And later on it withdrew. Then, several active workers of BJP and other parties became martyrs in Punjab but the number of workers of the Congress who died is 19. Similarly, 11 people of CPI and CPI (M) have also been killed. Certain workers of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Longowal) and the other faction of the Shiromani Akali Dal have also died. In this way 53 people belonging to all parties have so far become martyrs in this movement in Punjab. This process is going on.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA (Amritsar) : Only 19 people of the Congress have died.

S. BUTA SINGH : These are only office bearers which I have mentioned. These people were of the level of DCCs and PCCs.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Recently the PCC President had stated that about 300 to 350 people have become martyrs.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am talking of prominent office bearers only.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : No. You should correct your statement.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am talking in a routine manner. Otherwise more than 300 Congress workers have died in Punjab. Therefore, to say that people belonging to one particular party have died in a maximum number is not correct. We wanted that process of holding rallies in rural areas should be restarted but it could not be accelerated. Anyhow, people from every corner of Punjab are joining the campaign that has been launched by the Congress Party and our effort is meeting with an unprecedented success. We are going to hold a very big rally there on 19 November. I would like to say this that every one should cooperate in this effort irrespective of his party affiliation.

[English]

As Punjabis, they are opposed to terrorism; they are opposed to extremism; they are opposed to separatism.

[Translation]

This is what we are in need of. We should channelise our efforts to mobilise 'Lok Shakti' i. e. the power of the people so that Punjab may come out of the mire of the terrorism and may regain its high position of being a progressive State. Through President's Rule, we will endeavour to root out the extremism and separatism from Punjab at the earliest possible. We will come again before the

House after that. That is why the Assembly has not been dissolved there and has been kept under animated suspension. Therefore, our first and foremost task is to establish peace and to sustain unity and integrity. We will be ready to make the greatest sacrifice for this. At the same time, it will be our endeavour to respect the political feelings of the people of Punjab.

With these words I request the House once again to pass the Resolution unani- mously so that we may be able to perform good work in Punjab.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House approves the continu- ance in force of the Proclamation dated the 11th May, 1987 in respect in Punjab, issued under Article 356 of the Consti- tution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 11th November, 1987",

(The motion was adopted)

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17.33 hrs.

AIR (PREVENTION AND CONT-  
ROL OF POLLUTION) AMENDMENT  
BILL.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up the next item—Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill. Mr. Bhajan Lal.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRON-  
MENT AND FOREST (SHRI BHAJAN  
LAL) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to amend the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, be taken into consideration".

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Members are aware, the Air (Prevention