

[Sh. Ram Bahadur Singh] issue of wages determination and prestige but no precautionary measures were taken by the administration. The collector has taken this incident lightly and issued a statement that similar incidents have already taken place in Delhi, Panipat and Kurukshetra. Such a situation is all the more regrettable. It means that such incidents are but natural and will also recur in future. Hence one need not worry about it. That shows that the collector feels no concern or has no repentance for this. I, therefore, want to say that if the Central Government is willing to bring out the truth then it must take up the responsibility of enquiry on its shoulders.

I shall conclude my speech after making one more submission. I request not to assign this work to the local administration because there is state of anarchy in Bihar. There will be no exaggeration if I say that there is no administration worth the name in Bihar. You will be surprised to know that during the last five months only i.e. from January 1988 to May 1988, 1550 persons have been killed in Bihar.... (Interruptions) with an average of 310 persons a month and 31 persons per day. Most of them were Harijans, Girijans or the persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society. The figures of Jahana-bad massacre are also included in it. The Central Government had dismissed the Barama Government in Punjab on the ground of increase in killings in Punjab but the same action is not being taken against the Bihar Government where the number of killings has been more than that in Punjab. If the Central Government have enough guts the morality then it should at once issue a directive to dismiss the Bihar Government. But I know that the Central Government would not dismiss the Bihar Government. All prevalent evils in this country that are of the rising prices, famine, unemployment, rape, loot or dacoity are the worms which are eating upon this country. In the same way the atrocities on Harijans is also a worm. This worm has sprung up from the fallacy of the Congress. The origin of these atrocities is also in the filth of the Congress. I believe that unless the filth of the Congress is

cleaned, the worms will continue to nibble the country.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Hon. Minister, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev will make a statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.JANGA REDDY (Han-amkonda): Where is Shri Chidambaram?

(Interruptions) .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: On behalf of Shri Chidambaram, he will make a statement.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Shri Chidambaram is making a Statement in Rajya Sabha.

(Interruptions)

18.00 hrs.

STATEMENT RE REPORTS APPEARING IN THE PRESS ABOUT TERRORISTS' PLAN TO ASSASSINATE THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE HOME MINISTER AND PAKISTAN'S COMPLICITY IN TERRORISTS' NEFARIOUS DESIGNS.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, several Hon'ble Members have expressed concern about reports appearing in the press today regarding terrorists' plans to kill the Prime Minister and the Home Minister.

Attempts to kill high dignitaries is a well established part of the terrorists' strategy. By doing so, they hope to create large scale disturbances and cause a breakdown of law and order which would help them in achieving their nefarious designs. Information about such plans has been received by the Government from time to time. The disclosures from the material recovered from time to time. The disclosures from the material recovered from the Golden Temple Complex after operation Black Thunder are an important link. The documents seized from the rooms in Parikrama of the Golden Temple show the close connection between Pakistan and the terrorist groups. They also reveal that terrorist leaders operating from Pakistan have been sending instructions to the terrorists and master-minding the terrorist activities in Punjab.

Wassan Singh Zaffarwal and Gurbachan Singh Manochahal are the two important links between Pakistan and the terrorist groups. Wassan Singh's letter dated 3rd May 1988 to Sukhdev Singh Jhamke, which has been published by a newspaper this morning, is one of the letters recovered from the Golden Temple Complex after Operation Black Thunder.

I take this opportunity to lay on the Table of the House six documents* which are among the documents recovered from the Golden Temple Complex. Hon'ble Members will find that these documents provide conclusive evidence of Pakistan's aid and support to terrorist groups in India. I may invite the attention of Hon'ble Members to some of the more obnoxious portions of these documents. The writers of these letters are Wassan Singh and Labh Singh, among others. The recipients of these documents are Gurbachan Singh Manochahal, Nirvair Singh, Jagir Singh, Malkiat Singh and Sukhdev Singh Jamke. In the letter dated 25.3.1988, Wassan Singh Zaffarwal refers

to the facilities provided for him and others in Pakistan and promises to supply assault rifles and other goods with the help of Pakistan Rangers. In the letter dated 24.4.1988, there is reference to the help given by the Pakistan Rangers and the purchase of arms and weapons to the tune of Rs.25 lakhs. In an undated letter, Labh Singh assures Malkiat Singh that there is no shortage of arms and on receipt of a message for arms they would be supplied. In the letter dated 3.5.1988 there is a clear indication of a plot to assassinate the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. In the letter dated 18.5.1988 Wassan Singh Zaffarwal has asked for recruits, with a pass in matriculation examination, who could be trained.

The available evidence clearly indicates that the external links of the terrorists continue to be strong and vital. Leading terrorists including Gurbachan Singh Manochahal and Wassan Singh Zaffarwal as well as Labh Singh of Khalistan Commando Force made a number of visits to Pakistan in the last quarter of 1987. In mid-November 1987 these terrorist leaders undertook a critical evaluation of the extremist movement in the wake of sustained police presence. There is confirmed evidence of the pressure in Pakistan during this period of important extremist leaders from Canada and U.K. Facilities for contact between extremist leaders from India and important overseas extremist leaders were made available by Pakistan.

The rise in extremist violence since the beginning of 1988 was made possible on account of fresh supplies of sophisticated and high calibre weapons including a large number of AK-47 assault rifles. The man responsible for establishing a conduit for supply of these weapons is Wassan Singh Zaffarwal.

*Placed in Library, See N. LT-6336/88.

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The Pakistan authorities have also exerted pressure on terrorist groups to forge unity and even threatened to cut off supply of arms and ammunition if this was not done. The Pakistan authorities have laid stress on increasing the frequency of strikes against members of Police and security forces to undermine the morale of the Police and the administration.

Pakistan showed a special interest in thwarting any scaling down of violence following the initiative of the Government of India for release of some Jodhpur undertrials and the high priests. Pro Pakistan elements were encouraged to openly adopt anti-India and pro-Khalistan postures. The Babbar Khalsa which had suffered major reverses during 1987 was revived and helped to gain a foothold in the Golden Temple. Its members returning from Pakistan received assistance at formal and official levels from Pakistan at the border.

After Operation Black Thunder, a number of Sick terrorist leaders based in Pakistan namely, Wassan Singh Zaffarwal, Sukhdev Singh Babar, Sukhdev Singh Jhamke, Avtar Singh Brahma, Balbir Singh Sandhu of Council of Khalistan and Kanwar Singh of Akal Federation took stock of the situation. The Panthic Committee and the Babbar Khalsa sent out instructions to their members in India to step up violence.

The success of Operation Black Thunder was widely welcomed. Despite the attempts of some leaders of various sections of Akali Dal to arouse sentiment against it, the common man was appreciative of the results obtained and the restraint shown in the conduct of the Operations. The terrorists, on the other hand, not only suffered in physical terms by some terrorists being killed and others being captured, they also

suffered a great damage in the public eye because of exposure of their misdeeds. Their surrender removed the aura of invincibility and heroism they had sought to create around themselves. Taped speeches of Gurbachan Singh Manochahal, a member of the Panthic Committee and an important contact in Pakistan have been found in circulation in Punjab which defend the actions of the terrorists and hurl baseless accusations at the Government. The misdeeds of the terrorists in the Golden Temple are sought to be explained away in simplistic terms. A transcript of the tape recorded speech of Manochahal is available with Government, and I lay a copy* on the Table of the House.

Despite these attempts to whitewash the misdeeds of the terrorists and to play down the success of the security forces it is a fact that Operation Black Thunder gave a severe jolt to the nucleus of terrorist activities in Pakistan. Government have information of consultations between representatives of Pakistan intelligence agencies and representatives of terrorist organisations to evolve a strategy to recover from this setback.

While the role of Pakistan in aiding and abetting terrorism in Punjab is the most prominent one, it is part of a widespread international conspiracy to destabilise India, for example, pro-khalistan elements demonstrated in front of Indian missions abroad to register their protest against Operation Black Thunder. In the U.S.A., Representative Dan Burton raised the matter in the House of Representatives and termed the action by the security forces as Indian military assault on the Golden Temple. Some foreign newspapers carried misleading stories about involvement of the Indian security agencies in committing terrorist acts which are entirely baseless and malicious. The so-called Republic of Khalistan Government-in-

-exile summoned an international convention during June 1988. Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan who had earlier been sidelined by the Council of Khalistan included as its spokesman. The international ramifications of the conspiracy against India are obvious to any discerning observer.

Besides what I have narrated above, specific threats to the life of the Prime Minister have been discovered from time to time. These threats were neutralised by our security agencies through timely and prompt action. While it would not be in public interest to disclose the dates and places when these threats emanated, I may take the House into confidence regarding one Pushpinder Singh Sachdeva. Specific intelligence was received that Pushpinder Singh left Canada for India in May 1986 and that he was involved in a conspiracy with leaders of the US-based International Sikh Youth Federation to assassinate the Prime Minister. Pushpinder Singh was arrested while trying to cross over to Pakistan on the night of 5/6 January 1987 at the Ganganagar Border (Rajasthan).

Hon'ble Members are aware that on a number of occasions statements have been made in public, both in India and abroad, holding out specific threats to the Prime Minister. I may refer to the Punjab March organised by Baba Joginder Singh between 15.8.86 and 23.9.86; the Shahidi Conference on 14.10.86; the Shahid Samagam on 31.10.86 and the speech of Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan on 7.6.87. Threatening letters are also received from time to time. Each letter is taken seriously and source of the threat is investigated. I may place on the table of the House a copy of one such letter* received from one Bittoo received in February, 1988.

18.00 hrs.

A recent review shows that Pakistan's role in providing guidance, material assis-

tance and sanctuaries for the terrorists has not undergone any change. Many of the terrorist leaders have made several visits to Pakistan. From the rank the file of the terrorists too a large number have been to Pakistan at some stage or the other. The extremists have received directions from Pakistan that notwithstanding the pressure on them from the Indian security forces they should continue committing terrorist crimes in Punjab and other parts of Indian including bomb explosions and attacks on Hindu temples, elimination of Sikhs in the Congress (I) party and attacks on pickets of security forces to demoralisation..

Subtle attempts through a mixture of hospitality and propaganda were made to subvert the loyalty of Sikh Pilgrims visiting Pakistan on the martyrdom day of Guru Arjun Dev this year.

I have mentioned all these developments in great detail to show that the revelations highlighted in the press, to which the Hon'ble Members have drawn the Government's attention, are not isolated developments. They are part of a larger conspiracy with international ramifications in which Pakistan plays the most important role. Mindless and indiscriminate killings of innocent people is one element of the strategy. Attempts on the lives of high dignitaries is another element. We are all aware of the attempt made on the life of the Prime Minister all Rajghat on 2.10.1986. One of the most notorious terrorists, Harjinder Singh Jinda, was arrested in Delhi when his plan to assassinate the Home Minister was foiled. Thanks to an excellent counter-intelligence operation.

Threat to the security of the Prime Minister and other dignitaries is indeed grave. It is a direct result of the bold and courageous stand taken by the Prime Minister and his Government against attempts to undermine

[Sh. Sontosh Mohan Dev]

the unity and integrity of the nation. We are determined not to allow the terrorists to succeed in their nefarious designs. I regret to point out that there has been some entirely unmerited criticism regarding measures taken for the security of the Prime Minister. Regardless of such criticism, Government are determined to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of the Prime Minister and holders of other offices. I am sure Government will have, in this respect, the full sup-

port of the House and the people of this country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at 11 00 A.M.

18.13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Wednesday, August 3,
1988 /Sravana 12, 1910 (Saka)*