

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Now he has been included in your category i.e. the experienced category.

[*English*]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : I would like to make a second suggestion. All political parties have to make a sincere public declaration that on matters which can affect the lives or affect the issues which are very clearly of importance to the nation and specially where anti-national, communal, separatist and extremist factors are concerned, we shall not take advantage of any such issues in our political arena. I entirely agree with Shri Gupta that if this is not forthcoming, then we must admit that there is something wanting in our commitment to secular and other ideals of this nation which are the foundations of our nation. How it is to be brought about, it should not be by compulsion but it should be by consensus. Let all political parties come together and take a decision that we shall deny ourselves if such an occasion arises . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Why don't you come together, all of you, and just do something positive ?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Sir, if everyone were to take the cue from what you said, I think this debate would have been shortened by at least half. I would not be averse to the idea that if you consider it appropriate at some point of time and bring everyone together, I am very definite that the result you want shall flow out of this.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall be happy to do it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, let there be 193 only by you.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : In the end, I would like to say one thing. We are definitely pained, anguished, sorry, sad and also angry at what is happening. To

deny this would be denying the reality of the situation in this country. Therefore, this august House represents the will of the nation. Let the word go out from here that the impeccable will of this country is reflected in this House and that will shall brook no delay, shall brook no opposition, shall set forth all the measures that are within the democratic armoury of the nation to combat terrorism, extremism, fundamentalism and the communal forces in this country so that we perform our duty both as Members of this House and as sentinel of the democratic systems in this country.

MR. SPEAKER : Now one minute please. We have not got the copies. Can we ask the Minister to go without the copies ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, yes.

17.28 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

STATEMENT RE : LAW AND ORDER PROBLEM IN DARJEELING ARISING OUT OF AGITATION BY GORKHA NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT ON 27.7.1986

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) : Sir, the Gorkha National Liberation Front has recently been engaged in a series of agitational activities. Their main demands appear to be the creation of a separate State of Gorkhaland within the Indian Union and the abrogation of the Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty of 1950.

In April 1986 the Gorkha National Liberation Front organised a black flag agitation in Darjeeling. The Front organised a 72-hour bandh from May 12 to 14, 1986 in Darjeeling District During

the bandh there were several incidents of violence. Agitators at Panighata under Naxalbari police station attacked police forces, who ultimately had to open fire killing one person. Later, on May 25, 1986 following the arrest of some persons accused in certain cases, Gorkha National Liberation Front Supporters took out a procession at Kurseong violating prohibitory orders and later attacked police personnel, who were forced to fire resulting in the death of 5 persons and injuries to two others. The situation almost came to normal after a few days.

The Central Government made available para-military forces to the State Government as requested by them; in all 5 Companies of CRPF and 3 Companies of BSF were made available.

Again, the Gorkha National Liberation Front gave a call for the boycott of those who accepted the literary award to be given by the Nepali Academy on the 13th July, 1986 which is the birth anniversary of Bhanu Bhakta, a renowned Nepali poet. However, there was not much response to this call.

Meanwhile Gorkha National Liberation Front had planned agitation programme for 27th July which involved public burning of Article 7 of the Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty, 1950, in different parts of Darjeeling District. In view of this the Government of West Bengal had extended the existing prohibitory orders u/s 144 Cr. P.C in the town also imposed in Kalimpong town.

On 27th July the Gorkha National Liberation Front supporters in large numbers tried to violate prohibitory orders in Kalimpong when 27 persons were arrested. Subsequently the Police had to intervene to prevent fresh attempts violate prohibitory orders which led to confrontation between violent mobs armed with Khukries and Police. The violent mob damaged public property including road transport vehicles. The police used lathis and tear gas as well as opened fire to bring the situation under control. As a result of this as per the latest information

available from the State Government 11 persons in all have died which includes one Constable of the State armed Police. About 32 persons were injured apart from one DIG and several police-men. Two CRPF jawans are reported to be grievously injured.

On the evening of 27th the State Government called in the Army in aid of Civil Administration in Kalimpong, and imposed indefinite curfew in that town. As per the latest reports there have been no incidents so far in Kalimpong after the induction of the Army. Three Companies of para-military forces were made available on 26th July, 1986 on the request of the State Government and 3 additional companies of BSF are now being made available to the local administration.

In protest against the incidents of 27th, the Gorkha National Liberation Front has given a call for 108-hours bandh with effect from 12-noon today in affected areas of Darjeeling District. Meanwhile Army units from Siliguri and Darjeeling are moving towards Kurseong to ensure that the hill road between Siliguri and Darjeeling is kept open.

The Central Government is in touch with the State Government and it is hoped that the situation will soon return to normalcy. Any political demand supported by violence is against the law and Constitution of the country. Any attempt to go beyond the norms established by law and the Constitution will undermine the democratic set up of the country. It is my earnest hope that there will be no further recourse to violence which may lead to further loss of life and destruction of public property.

17.32 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE : SITUATION IN  
PUNJAB—CONTD.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Henamkonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the situation in Punjab is being discussed in a very solemn atmosphere.....(Interruptions)