

I have to request the Government through the Minister to see that some early steps are taken for the rehabilitation of these workers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we adjourn for Lunch and re-assemble at 2.00 p. m.

13.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock

[English]

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (PUNJAB),
1985-86—contd.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH (Sarguja) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Punjab Budget Presented here though this Budget is a State Assembly subject, it has been presented here under special circumstances arising due to President's Rule in the State. It is a good thing that every aspect of this Budget has been discussed in detail and it has been prepared with practical approach. So far as this Budget is concerned, as it has been presented in the premier institution of the country, it should be carefully gone through to see whether sufficient provision has been made and there are no shortcomings. The way the formalities were completed was highly satisfactory and so far as the people of Punjab are concerned you know they are hardworking and enterprising. Government always had special interest in the future of Punjab. The State has always been far ahead of other States in matters of irrigation, agriculture, construction of dams, small scale industries and recruitment in army etc. There are many things which are available in abundance in

Punjab while in other States they are not available, when Punjab was at the pinnacle of progress and development, a handful of vested interests, which are today called extremists, vitiated the atmosphere. You must have observed that they tried to disintegrate the country for their selfish ends.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government have taken many effective steps to solve this problem. The President's Rule was imposed and even our popular leader Shri-mati Indira Gandhi had to sacrifice her life Shri Rajiv Gandhi took over the reins after her martyrdom and tried to bring about a solution with team work. As you are aware an able and dynamic leader like Shri Arjun Singh was appointed as Governor and he tried with all his might to bring the situation under control. It was the result of his efforts that an agreement was signed yesterday and the whole of country is Overwhelmed with joy. The unique agreement between Sant Longowal and Shri Rajiv Gandhi will bring peace and tranquility in the country and Punjab would make progress as before.

As is known to all Punjab is in the grip of floods at present as a result of which about 3 lakh hectares of land have been inundated and 10 lakh persons have been affected in one way or the other.

It is a matter of concern for all of us. I want to bring to your notice that there is need to put in more serious efforts to tackle this situation and it would be proper to make necessary provision in the Budget. You are also well aware that during the last couple of years the climate of terrorism has gripped the whole country in general and Punjab in particular and many innocent people have been killed and their property looted. This House expects from Government to give adequate compensation to all those who are affected and dislocated and give them an opportunity to be rehabilitated. It is, therefore, necessary to make adequate provision in Punjab Budget for these things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we look at the glorious part of Punjab we know it has been a progressive State all along.

[Shri Lal Vijay Pratap Singh]

Now Chandigarh would be its Capital. Keeping this in view there is need to make provision for more funds, so that the new system may function effectively. It is my firm belief that if normalcy returns to Punjab and law and order situation improves and if the people work with as much of dedication and sincerity as here to before undoubtedly Punjab would recover faster and once again regain its glory.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words I thank you and hope that Government with all its might will see to it that the new system works effectively.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when God was about to create this world, He expressed his wish to create human being and told the angels that He was going to create His representative in the world. The angels replied that they were sufficient in number to sing praises of His Holiness and of his benevolence. They cautioned Him saying that He was going to create such a being who would spread violence, hatred and bloodshed in the world. The God said, "I know better than you." Therefore, the first human being came into existence who was named Adam. He is called by different names in every religion. Two of his sons were Kabeel and Habeel. Kabeel murdered Habeel. That wanton murder is still writ large on the face of the world even today and the people from one part of this earth planet have launched invasions on the other parts and have indulged in bloodshed without any rhyme or reason. Kaiser indulged in bloodshed, Ghengis Khan indulged too and Halaku massacred many people. But what did they achieve? In the name of religion hair-raising cruelties have been perpetrated. It was expected of a religion to teach humanism to the human beings but alas religion itself was soaked in blood! The believers fight in the name of religion. They do not understand religion in its real sense. Religion does not teach us that cruelties should be perpetrated against mankind which is the creation of revered God.

A person can be won over bodily by the strength of a sword but his heart cannot be won over by it. It is love which can win over this heart of a person. It is the only thing which establishes nexus between man and God and remove the difference of high and low among the human beings. When this bond of love was established between our Prime Minister and the leaders of the Punjab, a historic accord came into being which will become an example for the posterity. The future generations will always remember it. For this our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi deserves the best of praise and congratulations.

Punjab symbolises the heart of our country. It is the responsibility of everyone of our motherland to take care of this heart. I had been to Punjab during the course of man contact. We used to hold as many as ten meetings in a day attended by 300 to 10,000 people. This showed that the people wanted the solution of the problem soon. There the people were ignorant about the Anandpur Sahib Resolution as well as the Akali demands. But some mischievous elements for this Sake of their interest raised a bogey and we had to suffer bloodshed on such a large scale and had to suffer such a loss whose example is nowhere to be found in the world. Our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi served the motherland with her last drop of blood. But no sacrifice goes waste. That sacrifice has given us a promising and able Prime Minister and leader to our country. It is due to this that we have been able to reach this accord. We have to remember that we have to establish cordial relations with Punjab which it needs badly. There is acute problem of unemployment in Punjab. We have to look into it. Punjab is part and parcel of our country. The people are full of patriotism and love for their country. The loyalty is in the blood of every Punjabi to whichever Community he may belong. We have seen that in time of wars the people of Punjab put their shoulder to the wheel and encouraged our army in the battle field. This is not the only example. If you go to Punjab and see Hussaniwala, you will find that the memorials of those, who got their motherland freed, are installed on the bridge of Hussaniwala. The memorials of persons like Sardar Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Arjun Singh are installed there.

I will recommend that those sacred memorials should be installed in front of Parliament of our country so that the coming generations may draw inspiration from them

There are many problem before Punjab. The problem of unemployment is there. At present the flood water has assumed alarming proportion as if it were a huge sea. We should give as much love and assistance to the people of Punjab as possible.

I would like to draw the attention of Government to the welfare of the unemployed people particularly the ex-servicemen. The member of persons in the Army is maximum from Punjab. The Ex-servicemen should get suitable service and be looked after well.

With these words I support the Punjab Budget whole heartedly and recommend that full provision should be made in the Budget for Punjab.

[*English*]

SHRI H.M. PATEL (Sabarkantha): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday the Prime Minister announced the accord that had been reached in regard to the Punjab. Common sense had at last prevailed. Various items in the Memorandum which was read out by the Prime Minister showed very clearly that on understanding each of these items could have been quite easily reached long ago. But there were various reasons, something or other intervened and agreement could not be reached. However, what we have to see is to the future. It is to be hoped that the accord will now be received and welcomed by all sections of the people in the Punjab. Otherwise the agony can easily be prolonged.

We have several States today in our country in which not unsimilar unfortunate situation exists. In Assam, we have relatively a simple problem. It has gone drifting unsolved on for several years. It appears also to be now near some agreement and I hope that the Prime Minister will with the determination with which he approached the Punjab problem, approach that problem also

and arrive at some kind of an agreement so that the agony of the people of Assam can also be terminated. We have also some other States including my own State, Gujarat, which continue to have difficulties. I do not know what precisely should be done. I do know in a broad way what probably ought to be done. But, I trust, the Prime Minister will now have some time to direct his attention towards the problems and the difficulties of Gujarat. Solutions cannot be achieved really from a distance. A great deal of close attention has to be devoted. I think the solution in the case of the Punjab was achieved because of a great many people interested themselves in solving the Punjab problems. Mr Indrajit Gupta referred in Particular to efforts that must have been made presumably by the Governor of Punjab.

He also referred to the efforts made by various people in the opposition parties towards the achievement of that agreement. In such matters there has to be a cooperative effort so that the problems are solved. These problems are simple and the difficulties are not very complex. We make them complex by not taking a reasonable decision in time. It is not necessary to go deeper into the question why the Punjab solution took so much time, and why the agreement was not achieved earlier. What we should rejoice now is that an agreement had been arrived. I personally think that while efforts of so many contributed towards this agreement, the Prime Minister's determination undoubtedly helped and I would now like that he does turn his attention to the States of Assam and Gujarat, more to Assam than Gujarat, because the Assam problem has dragged on for so many years and the people of Assam have really suffered quite considerably.

So far as the Punjab is concerned, while hoping that everyone will accept this agreement as warmly as everyone in this House has welcomed it, what remains to be done is that all of us should proceed to bring about once again the harmony and friendly situation that once existed in Punjab. It was the most prosperous State in this country so also Gujarat was a prosperous State. I say 'was prosperous' because the last few months

[Shri H. M. Patel]

disturbances have certainly been a major setback to those States. The sufferings of the large number of people increased because they were thrown out of employment, the daily wage earners in particular saw their livelihood vanishing with the vanishing of their employment. They must have had the greatest difficulty in solving their daily food problem. These are the kind of difficulties and problems which we seem rarely to visualise or think about. Who suffers very much as a result of these difficulties? It is the large number of such poor people who suffer very greatly, while we concentrate our attention on all kinds of other things, but not to the sufferings of the ordinary man, the smaller man. And that is one reason why, while feeling happy about the Punjab, I am unhappy because the situation in so many other States continues to be unsatisfactory.

Whenever these questions are raised, we say it is a State matter. Ours is a peculiar arrangement. Ours is a federal State, but it is a unitary State also and the kind of arrangement that we have arrived at strengthens our country as a whole. But if the conditions of the people at large, conditions of the poor people in every State have to improve, then the Centre has to continue to devote a great deal of attention to the sufferings of these ordinary people.

The Centre-State relations was one of the major problems and difficulty that faced us in the case of the Punjab. It is very satisfactory that the obvious thing has been done and the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, so far as it relates to the Centre-State problem has been referred to the Sarkaria Commission. The problem that must now have the highest priority in the Punjab in Punjab is to see that an early election is held and the President's rule comes to an end. The President's rule is desirable in certain circumstances. But we have not always observed healthy conventions in regard to it. When law and order ceases to exist, then the President's rule becomes inevitable and ought to be so regarded. But we do not always follow that convention. We think in terms of political advantages. In Gujarat, for instance, undoubtedly the sufferings of

the people would have been greatly shortened if President's rule had been brought in at an early stage, for law and order had completely broke at a very early stage down. Then was the time to consider this seriously. The fact that the Government of the day enjoyed a very big majority was not relevant. But it was not merely a question of whether the Government has an enormous majority or not, but it was a question of whether the Government was capable of maintaining law and order in the State. If law and order collapses, in spite of the fact that the Government of the day/has a majority support, the Centre must seriously consider the question of bringing in the President's rule. It is not a question of majority rule or majority support being enjoyed by the Government. The tragedy is that the Government enjoying such an enormous majority support, was unable to maintain law and order. I think in such matters, the consideration that must always weigh very greatly with those in authority is the sufferings of the poor.

I am very happy at least that so far as the Punjab is concerned, we may now genuinely hope that the sufferings of the people will come to an end. There is a slight uncertainty that still remains. But that uncertainty, no doubt, will disappear when the people generally see how much everybody desires that these uncertain and troubled days come to an end. I hope the Government will see to it that the promises that have been made and whatever it has undertaken to do, is done literally and in spirit.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have taken much time. Shri A.K. Patel wants to speak.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : I will certainly stop if that is the reason. I want to generate no feelings of bitterness of any kind. I will certainly stop. I have nothing much to say except that I welcome this accord and I am very happy that this accord is reached. I would like to offer my congratulations to all those whose efforts led to this accord is reached.

DR. A.K. PATEL (Mohsana) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday, unfortunately

I was not present in the House when the historical announcement of the Memorandum of Understanding was made. I personally and on behalf of my party B J P. welcome it and it is a great credit for the nation. It was a great bit of problem which the nation was facing for the last so many years. This should have been done years back. In that case, so many costly lives could have been saved. I know the opposition parties were blamed for favouring the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. Now from the talks it is seen this is what has been done; if not totally, at least partially it is accepted.

I request the Central Government to make all efforts to solve the problems of Punjab. As you know, Punjab was one of the foremost States like Gujarat, but for the last so many years all industries are at a standstill, farming is also not well-developed, so many people are jobless. So many costly lives were lost during the last four years. To bring about normalcy, to re-establish the normal position and to bring peace in the country, the State Government should be helped in all possible ways. As you know, the Central Government was taking more interest in the people of Punjab those days because the election was coming. Now the election is over and acceptance of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution was at the back of the mind of the people.

I will not say much about the Budget because actually it was the right of the people of Punjab to pass the Budget. But as the position was not normal for years and it was not solved, we have to do it. The terrorism which took place in Punjab for the last so many years has affected the nation also. As my predecessor said, Gujarat was the most peaceful State of the nation. Because of what has happened there during the last so many months, it has lost that reputation and so much of personal property is being lost everyday. I would request the Prime Minister through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to intervene in Gujarat so that peace can be established in that State.

(Translation)

SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA
(Hoshangabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,
I rise to support the Punjab Budget

which has been presented in this supreme institution of our democracy. My predecessors have stated that the authority for passing Punjab Budget vested with the Punjab Legislative Assembly but due to some unfortunate circumstances the President's rule is imposed there and unwillingly we have to pass this budget. Agreeing with the views of my previous Speakers I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for solving such a complicated problem in such adverse circumstances. This problem did not pertain to Punjab only but the country as a whole was affected by it and it was becoming an international problem. Other countries were also taking interest in the problem. This was witnessed some days ago. The people of the country have also seen how the enemies of India were playing their nefarious game under the cover of this problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of India accepted the leadership of Rajivji Gandhi on the same day when he became the Prime Minister for the first time. There is no example in the history of the world where we find that a person whose mother had been killed with bullets and who had seen the blood of his mother gushing out, who had been seen the bullet riddled body of his mother with his own eyes and in spite of this who without losing nerve and after taking oath of the office of the Prime Minister left the mortal remains of his mother at home and went to mollify the agitated people. On that very day, the people of the country had accepted the leadership of Rajivji. Now, no doubt whatsoever has been left after the historic accord concluded yesterday. I will convey my thanks to all the leaders of the opposition Parties who welcomed the accord boldly.

Some days ago I got an opportunity to visit Punjab and I met many people there. The Punjab prosperous which was the glory of this country fell on the evil days. The people of that State narrated their sad plight that earlier they were leading a happy life, every village was having electricity and water and was linked with roads. There were good crops in every village and the milk was in abundance. But the same Punjab was affected by an evil eye, as a

[Shri Rameshwar Neekhra]

result of which the terrorist indulged in bloodshed. There I had an opportunity to meet a mother. She told me that when she was admitted in the hospital and her son was bringing medicine for her, some terrorists fired at him and killed him. There are such families there who were waiting for their husbands, sons but Their husbands and sons never returned home because they were killed by the terrorists. This course of events in Punjab claimed many lives.

Batala village of Punjab, which used to supply machines to the whole country and where different kinds of machines used to be manufactured, was under currew at that time. All the factories in Batala were lying closed. The businessmen of Batala were saying that no one visited their and no one believed them. In this way Punjab looked shocked. But after the accord was concluded, it brought hope to the country that Punjab will return to the days of its prosperity and happiness. Batala will resume supply of machines to the whole country. Same will be the case with the wheat produced in Punjab. Again the milk will be supplied in abundance and once again Punjab will witness prosperity. For this our Hon. Prime Minister deserves congratulations.

On this occasion I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of State for Finance to a few points. Keeping in mind the accord concluded yesterday will the hon. Minister bring about changes in the Budget because it is said in the accord that compensation will be paid to those persons who have suffered loss of life and property in these incidents? Will any provision be made in the Budget so that the accord concluded yesterday by the Prime Minister is implemented properly?

Similarly the Hon. Prime Minister had announced yesterday that those army men who under the stress of emotions had committed acts of indiscipline will be provided with better employment after their dismissal. May I know whether in pursuance of the announcement, the hon. Minister has made any provision in his Budget so that fund is made available to provide them with

better employment? In the recent part the industry in Punjab became sick and it was sabotaged on a large scale. Will the hon. Minister make provision in his budget so that fund is made available separately to run the sick industry? Also a number of schools and hospitals were burnt down, incidents of sabotaged took place at many places, transport system was disturbed and bridges and canals were damaged. So taking all these things into consideration will the hon. Minister make special provision in the Budget so as to rectify all these things?

With these words I support the Punjab Budget and make submission to the hon. Minister that keeping in view the announcement made yesterday and the damages having been caused earlier, provision may be made in this Budget for the special fund so that the accord is implemented properly.

SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHARAN (Karad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I consider myself to be fortunate for having got an opportunity to speak on the Punjab Budget. The accord on Punjab which was concluded yesterday will be written in golden letters in the history of the country. Our country was passing through great turmoil since 1980 and it was facing this boldly. The example of the sacrifice made by our great leader late Shrimati Indira Gandhi in facing these problems will not be found in the history of the last five thousand years and there is also no possibility of such thing to take place in future. Even today the situation is being faced boldly. Our young leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi has repeated that history. The phrase in English—History repeats itself is proving to be true. Ever since Rajiv Gandhi took charge of the office, he is facing challenges of all types. The world is astonished at this. The situation in the country had deteriorated so much that one failed to understand what to do. Fears of many type haunted us. What would happen to the country? Have the Indian culture, Indian greatness and the good deeds of the Indian people become meaningless? Shri Rajiv Gandhi is one of the great, brave and illustrious men the country has produced and this has amply been proved in case of Punjab.

He used to say in his speeches that a solution would be found of this problem and that solution would be found keeping in view the interest of all parties. He has done what he had been saying. Such examples are rare.

[*English*]

Great persons are born, not made.

[*Translation*]

By concluding this agreement he has proved the aforesaid saying. Now, Punjab will prove to be a proud State of India, Punjab is a very prosperous and brave State of our country. I desire that elections may be held there very soon and the State may be solved from evil forces. I request the hon. Prime Minister that special facilities may be provided to them in order to meet the loss suffered by them.

The Governor of Punjab, Shri Arjun Singh has also played a vital role in this regard. Punjab has gained a lot on account of his fraternal attitude and he has proved to be a successful Governor. I, therefore, congratulate him also alongwith Shri Rajiv Womanfolk of the country are very happy on this agreement. Whenever we went to Punjab and met the womanfolk there, they used to say that their one son is Sikh while the other is Hindu. Both the sons are dear to the mother. They used to pray to God that differences developed between brothers may end. The Punjab has now been saved from the danger. The main reason for losses, and halting of progress in Punjab was that the youth there had gone astray. But the State will again march ahead rapidly make progress. It produces the largest quantity of food grains in the country. People there are very hard working. I hope that this state will again march towards progress. I extend all my good wishes for this State Besides, I also express my good wishes for Rajivji so that he shoulders the country's responsibility bravely. May he live long.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the outset,

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Punjab budget. I thought there would be another occasion for us to discuss the whole question of Punjab. But since everybody is speaking on it, I thought I must also take part in it.

Sir, at the very outset I wholeheartedly and with open arms welcome the accord that was reached yesterday evening. This was the day we have been devoutly looking for, for a long time. On this happy occasion it will not be relevant for us to dig into the past. But I do not know whether we can completely forget the past because if we forget the past and ignore it, we are likely to repeat the mistakes we made in the past.

One is surprised — and pleasantly — at the ease with which the accord could be reached. This only raises a fundamental question as to whether this kind of agreement was possible earlier, prior to the Blue Star operation. My own view is that this agreement was possible without the Blue Star operation and before the Blue Star operation. We must, therefore, examine as to why it was not made possible before that period.

If we look at the agreement that was reached yesterday, you will find that it is an eleven-point memorandum, out of which the first six points barring point No. 5 relate to issues and incidents that took place after the Blue Star operation. In other words, out of the eleven points only six points relate to the real issues over which the entire crisis brewed.

I would like now to say as to why this agreement could not be reached before the Blue Star operation. If I am to say in one sentence it may be shocking. It will certainly jar on the ears of the Minister of State for Finance. I do not know whether he would be competent to answer. It was not possible because at that time the Congress (I) had the Eighth Lok Sabha poll still to wage and win.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHIR (Ghazipur) : You ask them why it was not possible.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It was made impossible because at that time the Government of India used to say that Haryana and

Rajasthan had many objections to raise. I do not know what really happened to Bhajan Lal yesterday. I want the ruling party to realise the colossal cost this country had to bear for the victory they had won at the last Lok Sabha polls on this Punjab issue. I know that this issue in the current phase, had in fact commenced way back in 1982.

In the first place the Akali Dal began with a charter of 45 demands. Later on they were short-listed to ten demands. Out of these ten demands four were religious and six were about Punjab, May I point out that all the four religious issues were conceded unilaterally by the Government of India but in the wrong manner and at the wrong place? The late Prime Minister announced these concessions at Delhi which only worsened the situation. In regard to the remaining six Punjab demands a consensus was worked out.

In fact, there were at least three occasions when the agreement was reached and when drafts were also prepared. On November 17, 1983, in fact, an aircraft was kept ready to take the VIPs to Amritsar. I want to know as to who went back on that. What were the reasons which compelled the then Government to go back on that.

Here, let me say something about the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. Our Prime Minister made much of it not only at the Lok Sabha polls but also at the Assembly polls. When the leaders of Janata Party including the President of the Party, Mr Chandra Shekhar, said that everything was not wrong with the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, this ruling party had the moral temerity and audacity to paint the veteran opposition leader in antinational colours.

I hope, this accord will pave the way for lasting harmony between Sikhs and Hindus in Punjab. I am sure, this accord would go a long way in strengthening the foundations of India's unity and integrity.

I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister to express regrets to the nation in good grace for the ungraceful and unpatriotic attacks he mounted on the bonafides of the opposition leaders. I want the Prime Minister to be graceful; I want the ruling

party to be graceful because they know who paid the price, who benefited out of this colossal turmoil that this country had to pass through. This country paid the price in terms of blood, money and relations between two major communities. Therefore, it is very necessary for us to remember what has really been gone through.

Though the accord has been reached and though our own reports are that the accord has been widely welcomed in Punjab in almost all the sober responsible quarters, we must not forget that there will be a fringe to keep causing trouble. There is, therefore, need for the Government to be on the alert. This is not the time to relax. This is, in fact, the time for us to be on guard.

I congratulate Sant Longowalji on the tremendous moral courage he displayed in reaching this settlement. I must really compliment on the great patriotic fervour that he showed in reaching this agreement. At no point of time did leaders like Sant Longowalji, Prakash Singh Badal, S.S. Barnala lose their cool. At no point of time were they, consciously or at least privy to anything that would undermine the integrity, of this country. I am of the view, while appreciating the Government and the opposition parties for playing their correct part in evolving a solution to the problem, the whole House should congratulate Sant Longowalji on the constructive role he played in this crisis.

We will have to learn one thing from this crisis. There are issues which confront this nation as a whole. On such critical issues, we must evolve conventions traditions and processes by which a multi-partisan consensus can be developed. It is unfortunate that the ruling party in this country tends to develop a partisan approach to every national issue.

15.00 hrs.

It tends to give partisan dimension to every national problem. I hope that the ruling party, which got a massive mandate, will no longer indulge in such sly politicking. If this lesson alone is learnt by the ruling party, I will not really feel sorry for the massive victory they had at our cost, at the cost of the country, on the question of Punjab.