

[English]

*The motion was adopted.*

14.16 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we take up clause by clause consideration. The question is:

APPROPRIATION BILL\*, 1989

"That Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1988-89.

*The motion was adopted*

*Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill*

"The leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1988-89."

MR. B.K. GADHVI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted*

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

14.18 hrs

I beg to move\*\*:

PUNJAB BUDGET 1889-90 GENERAL DISCUSSION;

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (PUNJAB), 1989-90; AND

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1988-89, be taken into consideration."

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (PUNJAB), 1988-89

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

[English]

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1988-89, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up general discussion on Punjab Budget, Demands for Grants on Accounts and Supplementary Demands for Grants, for which 3 hours have been allotted.

\*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 27.3.1989.

\*\*Introduced/Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Motions moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Punjab, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1980 in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands 1 to 30."

"That the Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Accounts and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Punjab to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the financial year ending the 31st day of March, 1989 in respect of heads of demands entered in second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 5, 7, 8, 10 to 19, 21 to 23, 25, 26, 28 and 29."

*Demands for Grants on Account (Punjab), 1989-90 submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha*

No. of Demands	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account submitted to the Vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
1.	Agriculture and Forest	49,54,30,000	12,72,33,000
2.	Animal Husbandry and Fisheries	16,71,31,000	1,31,25,000
3.	Co-operation	7,46,06,000	27,29,50,000
4.	Defence Services Welfare	1,74,84,000	10,00,000
5.	Education	2,27,84,06,000	24,43,000
6.	Elections	56,24,000	.....
7.	Excise and Taxation	5,94,61,000	.....
8.	Finance	1,04,70,32,000	3,79,00,000
9.	Food and Supplies	1,75,75,000	5,00,34,47,000
10.	General Administration	7,67,24,000	.....
11.	Health and Family Welfare	72,86,04,000	.....
12.	Home Affairs and justice	104,64,17,000	17,00.00,000
13.	Industries	6,85,18,000	10,58,43,000

1	2	3	
14.	Information and Public Relations	2,34,00,000	....
15.	Irrigation and power	65,11,60,000	3,39,03,85,000
16.	Labour and Employment	2,23,63,000	.....
17.	local Government, Housing and Urban Development	14,00,57,000	10,78,25,000
18.	Personnel and Administrative Reforms	47,64,000	....
19.	Planning	11,92,79,000	....
20.	Programme Implementation	50,000	....
21.	Public works	76,90,34,000	39,73,35,000
22.	Revenue and Rehabilitation	22,26,39,000	.....
23.	Rural Development and Panchayats	21,37,63,000	35,00,000
24.	Science, Technology and Environment	18,00,000	1,30,13,000
25.	Social and Women's Welfare and Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes	26,09,75,000	64,68,000
26.	State Legislature	1,08,16,00	.....
27.	Technical Education and Industrial Training	9,71,16,000	15,85,000
28.	Tourism and Cultural Affairs	98,62,000	83,75,000
29.	Transport	45,80,06,000	10,20,50,000
30.	Vigilance	93,97,000	.....

*Supplementary Demands for Grants (Punjab) 1988-89 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the house	
		1	2
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1.	Agriculture and Forests	8,41,20,000	.....
2.	Animal Husbandry and Fisheries	2,65,48,000	65,00,000
3.	Co-operation	...	8,83,75,000
4.	Defence Services Welfare	25,46,000	.....
5.	Education	89,66,26,000	.....
7.	Excise and Taxation	2,46,89,000	.....
8.	Finance	....	1,87,00,000
10.	General Administration	3,06,72,000	.....
11.	Health and Family Welfare	13,71,38,000	.....
12.	Home Affairs and Justice	48,54,50,000	30,00,000
13.	Industries	3,79,56,000	8,38,28,000
14.	Information and Public Relations	83,62,000	.....
15.	Irrigation and Power	66,03,54,000	.....
16.	Labour and Employment	32,59,000	.....
17.	Local Government, Housing and Urban Development.	11,98,77,000	10,29,40,000
18.	Personal and Administrative Reforms	1,15,000	.....
19.	Planning	1,15,86,000	.....
21.	Public Works	31,66,59,000	.....
22.	Revenue and Rehabilitation	8,40,97,00	.....

1	2	3	
23	Rural Development and Panchayat	11,79,54,000	50,00,000
25.	Social and Women's Welfare and Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes	1,94,05,000	.....
26.	Technical Education and Industrial Training	2,11,21,000	.....
28.	Transport	.....	15,00,00,000
29.	Vigilance	31,14,000	.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now Mr. D.N. Reddy.

SHRID.N. REDDY(Cuddapah): Punjab is one of the important States in our country and also the granary of the nation, has been in trouble for the last four or five years. I am sorry to say that the Government has been the chief architect of the trouble by encouraging the fundamentalists in Punjab. The future historians will recall that this is one of the tragic chapters in the history of our great nation.

When we look back the hon. Members will agree with me that we find that one of the chief fundamentalists, very dangerous and violent person Bhindranwale, the source of terrorism in the whole of the State, was once encouraged by the ruling party themselves. It was done in order to bring about cheap electoral gains and split the Akali Dal. The source of trouble was started at that time. I am quoting: 'Our present Prime Minister himself, when he was the Secretary of the AICC, had described Bhindranwale as a purely religious leader and not at all connected with politics.' This one point shows how for we have gone wrong in solving the

problem of Punjab. Time and again we have been asking the ruling party that the issue should be treated as a national issue and not an electoral problem. The Centre has failed to hold on all-party meeting to discuss the problem of Punjab, despite its conscience to do so. This is a great disappointment to the whole nation that the issue was not tackled properly in the beginning itself and the Government has discussed from Stage to Stage till so many lives were lost. The problem is nowhere nearer the solution. The Government also under-estimated the consequences of the problem in Punjab.

14.21 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI *in the Chair*]

Added to that, the popular Government was dismissed. You may remember, Madam, that all the Opposition parties were against dismissing the popular Barnala Ministry. Instead, unemployed politician found place as Governor in the State. The result is that we are still in a confused state and the solution is nowhere in sight. As a consequence, all the sections indiscrimi-

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nately, and at times very unfortunately, acted like terrorists themselves. The police actions have alienated the public of Punjab. The economic development also has been greatly affected and so the unemployed youth were attracted to the terrorist movement. The origin of the movement itself started immediately after the most unfortunate and dastardly assassination of our Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. For two or three days it looked as if there was no government in Delhi and a number of Sikhs were murdered and their property looted. This, added to the action in the Golden Temple, aroused the tempers of the unemployed youths among the Sikh community to such an extent that even now they have not forgotten the very unfortunate treatment they got from the popular government and also the unfortunate way they were discriminated against among the community. As a matter of fact, the communities in Punjab itself—Hindus and Sikhs—are living happily. Unfortunately the treatment given out to them from the Centre has created a rift and then all the unfortunate problems followed.

The intense lack of imagination of the central Government is shown as late as the hanging of the two unfortunate culprits in the assassination. The whole country pleaded for mercy to Kehar Singh, whose involvement was not direct in the commission of the crime. A small gesture of mercy to Kehar Singh would have brought enormous dividend and goodwill, not only in the State but in the whole nation. Unfortunately, the Government was deaf to this advice and the poor man was hanged. I do not mean to say that anyone in the country will justify such a dastardly action, but still, when there was some sort of an iota of suspicion, he did deserve mercy at the hands of the President. So, Madam, it is my point to bring it to the notice of the House that the Government is guilty, to some extent, in creating such a

difficult situation in Punjab. All the gains in Punjab till now without offering any solution have been frittered away. Ordinary people are getting trapped between terrorism on the one hand and corruption and high-handedness of those who are supposed to protect them on the other. This is the result of dismissing the popular Government for no reason and then imposing President's rule in that State. We on the side of the Opposition have been pleading for elections for quite some time, but our advice was not taken seriously and now the Government has come forward saying that they would conduct Panchayat Elections in the State. God knows what is going to happen there. But first they must have a popular government and then conduct the Panchayat elections. As it is, I think to conduct panchayat elections before a popular Government is installed in Punjab will be very unfortunate as serious problems will be created and it will add to our difficulties in that State. I do not see why the Government want to conduct panchayat elections before Assembly elections. It is not at all wise as it will create problems in almost every village. Moreover, there is no security for anyone as it is now.

Coming to the number of killings, it is estimated that between May 1987 and 31st January 1989, 2688 persons were killed and 698 terrorists were killed in the State and I do not understand how the Government say that the situation has improved. I do not see any charge at all and though there are some other State where the number of killings are equal or more in number, the root cause of the problem in Punjab is entirely different. For example, in Bihar, probably the number of killings has been more in the same period and the Government want to white-wash the whole crime because it is a Congress-I ruled State and there is a lack of will to solve the problem altogether. Unfortunately, we are drifting from point to point and even now there is no concrete solution that has been arrived at, after discussing the same with the

Opposition parties. We have been hearing the Prime Minister saying in the House that they will discuss the issue with the Opposition parties. But for the last so many months, we have been waiting for a discussion so that we may have a clear-cut programme. But it is not to be. Still we are happy that the Prime Minister very recently had announced a package of various measures in Punjab. In a way, it may solve the problem. But though the measures are welcome ones, unless all the political parties are taken into confidence and are involved in solving the problem, no permanent solution could be arrived at and the package programme also has been diluted slowly after the assurance was given by the Prime Minister on the floor of the House.

Sir, a few hundred detenus from Jodhpur have been released. But what about the thousands who are still there? It is my information that only a few hundreds, probably some 200 or 300 have been released and some of them have been re-arrested and some of them are still languishing there and absolutely there is no hope for them yet. Though a promise was made on the floor of the House that all the detenus will be released, still they are not released. For many of them, there are no concrete charges, are also framed against them and even a few detenus who have been released have to be rehabilitated. As a matter of fact, it is the duty of the Government to see that the detenus are rehabilitated. They were kept in prison for no fault of theirs; there were no charges there were no cases; there was no judgement and they were not produced before any court and, above all, the treatment they have got in the prison is astoundingly worse. It is on record that immediately after arrest they were not given water for quite some time in the cell. They were isolated, their relatives were not permitted to see them. They did not know what were the charges and why they were arrested and detained and regarding the treatment they got from the police, really

a civilized world will be ashamed of that sort of treatment and no country where democracy prevails will tolerate this sort of injustice to the prisoners whatever their crime is.

A large number of prisoners are still lingering in the jail and I request the Government to make a note of it and see that almost all the prisoners are released.

Conducting of early elections there is a must. Unless a popular government is there, it is very difficult to carry the people with them and understand the sentiments of the different sides there and all those people who died or suffered violence two or three days after the assassination of the late Prime Minister should be compensated. There has been a terrible loss especially in one community and even now some of the case are still pending. We are not told how many cases have been booked and how many have been sentenced and what relief measures have been taken. The released detenus also, I am very sorry to say, are very very bitter that their families were ruined and they have nothing to look forward to and their whole lives have been changed during their long stay in the jail.

Regarding the holding of panchayat elections, I do not think it is a wise move. The panchayat elections can wait. First, they should have a popular government. Even the political leaders of that State have been asking for elections. Still, there is no reason why the Centre should hesitate, unless they are afraid that the Ruling Party cannot win elections. The issue has been looked upon more as an election issue than as a national issue. The whole country is agitated, and we want the problem of Punjab to be solved as early as possible.

There has been some discussion on Punjab in particular and a few promises also have been made, but unfortunately they are not kept. We have been saying that foreign

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aid is coming to the terrorists and some weapons also were supplied to them, but the Government failed to identify who those foreign countries are. It is the duty of the Government to find out the nations which have been helping the terrorists much to the detriment of the nation.

When the terrorists have been crossing the border, there has been some sort of encouragement also by Pakistan. After the change of government in Pakistan, there have been high hopes in our country that things would change. But I am sorry to say, that euphoria which was there immediately after the new government has assumed in Pakistan is slowly disappearing because the corps of the Army in Pakistan looks as though they are against our country. Help is coming to the terrorists and they are crossing the border in the last few days without any difficulty and are getting the protection of some people in Pakistan. So, we have to take into account all this and there is no point in minimising the problem and giving out as tough we are about to solve the problem in Punjab and giving empty promises to the people. The whole country is very much eager to know what is going on and when you are finding a solution to this problem. The requirements of Punjab now are many. Industries have been standstill. It is a great agricultural state. Not only in respect of agriculture, but in respect of industries also, it is one of the most forward States in the country and everything has been standstill. It is high time that a popular government is formed there and enough funds are provided to see that the State develops very quickly and in a very progressive way. The whole Sikh community is looking forward, how the Government will bring trust to this community after such harassment in Delhi 4 year back. The ruling Party should take all these facts into account and see that final and complete solution is found immediately, with

the consultation and help of the Opposition leaders. I wish you take us into confidence in full so that we may give a helping hand to this unfortunate State as early as possible.

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR (Gurdaspur): Madam Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Punjab Budget. I am also hopeful that the next year Budget will be discussed in its proper place and not here in Parliament.

To begin with, I would like to put the record straight. My hon. colleague from the Opposition has said that the two communities are not on very cordial terms. It is absolutely wrong. The people in Punjab, whichever community they belong to, live in harmony, peace and there is love which was there all the time and it still remains there. The Central Government is doing everything to maintain that peace and harmony and is not doing anything to strain the relation

He has also got up the case for Kehar Singh. Kehar Singh was convicted by the Supreme Court on the evidence—if you have gone through the proceedings of the case, mainly, Bimal Khalsa—and therefore the Centre has nothing to do with it. They just carried on the sentence that was given to him by the court.

I would like to thank the Prime Minister for the recent steps he has taken for Punjab and I am sure, these steps will go a long way in restoring peace and harmony and towards the solution as soon as possible.

The hon. Member was talking about the Panchayat elections. I think the Panchayat elections are very necessary and they should be held. If Assembly elections can be held, I think, the Panchayat elections can be held and should be held and also we should start from the panchayat level. It is necessary that we want the popular Government there and panchayat elections should be



held first and I do not see any reason why it cannot be held or should not be held. I disagree with the hon. Member in this regard.

Regarding Jodhpur's detainees, Punjab Government and the Central Government have from time to time done everything to rehabilitate anybody who needs assistance and I am sure they will do so now. Madam.

Madam Chairman, Punjab has been going through difficult times and these difficulties have been accountuated last September, due to the unprecedented rains, when we had very bad flood. The whole of Punjab was affected and not only we lost certain percentage of standing crops but a large number of house were damaged. Thousands of animals, livestock were killed. Almost 90% of the *Kuchcha* houses came down. Even the *pucca* houses in the villages were damaged. As I said, standing crops were damaged. Even the grain that was stored in the houses and other places was damaged. So much so, all the roads were damaged. Even the Ranjit Sagar dam suffered a loss of about Rs. 200 crores. The Punjab Government tried to do as much as possible and the people of Punjab appreciate the amount of Rs. 100 crores that was given by the Central Government. Unfortunately, the Finance Minister is not here. I wish he was. He would also appreciate that Rs. 100 crores is nothing compared to the damages Punjab suffered. The estimate given by the State Government was almost Rs. 2,000 crores. On the one hand, the State Government is trying its best to give relief to all sections of the society, whether it is agriculture—because the agriculturists suffered or it was business or industry. On the other hand, whenever Punjab asks for assistance from the Central Government, the answer we get is that the State must raise its resources. I do not understand how are we to raise those resources. We do not have any

opportunity at the moment for raising of resources because the State has gone through a fury of floods. It would be very odd and embarrassing for the State Government, on the one hand, in giving relief and, on the other hand, to take back something. So, I would request the Finance Minister thorough the Minister for parliamentary Affairs for sympathetic consideration to be given to Punjab and it should be considered a serious problem and the whole nation should help Punjab in his hour of crisis.

Punjab is mainly an agricultural State and even though we have only 3% of the cultivated land in Punjab, we contribute over 40% of the foodgrains to the national pool and it is, therefore, necessary and right too, that the Central Government should assist us in agriculture, power and industry. Only three districts, Sangrur, Bhatinda and Hoshiarpur have been declared 'B' category district under the Government of India Scheme of Central Industrial Subsidy and the districts of Gurdaspur and Ferozepur have been declared 'C' Category districts. There is no aid for backward districts in the State although 66 out of 111 blocks are no-industry blocks. In order to revive the industrial economy of the State, I think it is imperative that the entire State should be declared 'A' category backward district State and incentive due to this category should be given. Punjab today suffers from backwardness as the small entrepreneur is not in a position to get access to improved technology for diversification and modernisation of industry and updated technology that it should get. It is, therefore, necessary and I think that it is the need of the hour that the Government of India should help in this. I believe that the Government of India is setting up 66 growth centres in the country and out of these, in the first phase only two have been allocated to Punjab. The industrial growth rate of Punjab has gone down from 10%-10.2% to about 3.3% in the Seventh Plan and we are also geographically at a disadvantage because

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the private investor does not want to invest in Punjab. Punjab should get more Central assistance and we should be allotted at least six of these growth centres in the first phase. The State Government is also doing its best to promote small scale industries but it is the Centre which should help us and give us more industries. We have said this last year but nothing has been done and again I am repeating and my other colleagues will see that we should get at least the petro-chemical complex, the electronic project and the video-set recording project to Punjab.

For industry and agriculture, power is very necessary and power demand is increasing at a very fast rate. The Punjab State Electricity Board is doing a very good job and I think they should be congratulated on the work they did during the floods but to be able to continue to do this good work, I think it is essential that we plan ahead and the project which are lying for clearance should be cleared immediately and funds should be sanctioned so that these projects are cleared.

The Punjab State electricity Board has written to the Centre regarding the Roper Thermal Plant industry which has been sanctioned by the CEA in January. The coal linkage has also been confirmed but the project has not been cleared. It is very necessary that this project is cleared immediately. Also approval is required for Guru Nanak Dev thermal Project Phase III. also. This has been cleared by the CEA and the Punjab Pollution Control Board.

I think, the Central Government should give clearance to this project also. The problem is that we have already exhausted all the hydel sources that we have and Punjab has no further sources besides what we have been already using. They have been exe-

cuted. There have been some delays. We hope that the Ranjit Sagar Dam will be completed as soon as possible. Similarly, for the development of thermal power, in Punjab there is not much scope because coal has to come from a very long way. We therefore think that the best thing that can be done to Punjab is to give gas-based projects. Regarding coal, out of the total cost of coal, about 60 per cent is spent on freight and Punjab which is far away from the coal mines is being penalised in this way. We therefore request that what is done for the other States should be done for Punjab also. Only Haryana and Punjab suffer on account of this problem because both the State are far away from the coal mines. The consumers in these States are placed in a disadvantageous position when compared to the consumers in other States. It would be helpful if the cost of freight is excluded from the total price. This would help the State of Punjab. We request that this should be done. When rationalising the coal policy, it should be ensured that it is similar throughout the country.

Madam, employment has been a major problem for all the States. In the case of Punjab also, it is very important to give employment to the youth. we must realise on thing i.e. the population increases and the agricultural land remains the same. Therefore, more and more youngsters are looking forward to jobs. They are trying to get jobs elsewhere besides agriculture. But to be able to get jobs, education is very necessary. Therefore, I think it is very important that two more Engineering Colleges are given to Punjab and at least two more Medical Colleges should be given to Punjab. I will go a step further and say that the border District of Gurdaspur should be given at least one Medical Collage and one Engineering College.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT(Almora):  
Madam, we support this.

**SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:** To generate employment for the unemployed youth, the State Government has formulated a scheme for setting up 700 poultry units. The total cost is estimated at Rs. 119 crores. This scheme has been forwarded through the Education Secretary to the Government of India. It is requested that the scheme should be cleared immediately and the funds amounting to Rs. 2100 lakhs should be sanctioned as subsidy to the beneficiaries.

Another problem which was just brought up by Kum. Mamata Banerjee was regarding the banks. She was speaking on the Supplementary Demands. But this problem applies to the State of Punjab also. The money that is to be given to the unemployed youth or to any other person is not being given immediately. We have got a lot of problem with the bank managers. She was quite right in saying that if a certain percentage of the money is given to those officers then they readily sanction the amount. Otherwise, they make a person go there forty-times to get that money. There is another thing. The policies that are laid down by the Central Government are not being executed the way they should be. The poor people are not getting the help that they should be given. So, I would request that this aspect has to be looked into.

There is another problem which is facing Punjab and particularly my district of Gurdaspur is this. It is situated between the two rivers i.e. the Ravi and the Beas. A bridge on the River Beas is required to link Gurdaspur with Mukerian. If that is done, then the people of Gurdaspur will be in a better position to go to Chandigarh and other District of Punjab. At least 100 villages are affected by this. It may seem to be a small thing to you. But for my District and for Punjab, it is a large area. If the bridge is built on this river at Chhale, it would be good for the people and also it would be a great service done to the area because Gurdaspur

is the most backward area of Punjab. Another bridge needs to be built on River Masto, which is a part of my area. For the people who have to go through Jammu and Kashmir, there is no direct access to that area. Therefore, for the bridge on the River Masto sanction should be given. We have been asking for it for the last eight years. But nothing has happened. So, I would request the Finance Minister to kindly look into that also.

Lastly, I would like to say a few words about the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Arrangements should be made to relay Jalandhar programmes from Bhatinda and Pathankot so that utilisation of full capacity can be made. If Jalandhar Doordarshan makes this programme for the people of Punjab, more people in Punjab can see this programme. Also, Kasuli could be used to relay this programme for Chandigarh and its neighbouring area. We also would like a full-fledged studio and transmission centre to be set up at Chandigarh as it is the capital of the two States. At present, all functions, meetings and conferences of the two capitals and the Union Territory are relayed only through Jalandhar. If we could also have a radio photo-link between Chandigarh and Jalandhar, it will be very good. It is important because Jalandhar is the headquarter of all the vernacular press and all the news of the three States—Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir—are relayed through that.

As regards the funds we have been given, the plan outlay has only been increased only by ten per cent. I am sorry to say that special assistance that we got of Rs. 89 crores has been included in that plan outlay. It would have been better if that had been given as an additional assistance by the Centre. I would request the Finance Minister that, considering the difficulties faced by the people of Punjab and the inability of the State Government to raise any resources, additional funds should be given liberally for the State of Punjab.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Madam Chairperson, I take this opportunity of this debate to congratulate the people of Punjab for maintaining communal harmony despite the severest of provocations that were given to them in the past few years. And also, I would like to greet the people of Punjab that, in spite of all the odds that they have faced and the havoc that was created by the terrorist activities, the peasantry mainly maintained the agricultural production and contributed well to the central pool of grains. Though we often hear or the people living in different States hear news of horrifying nature of killings to the people, action by the terrorists that shed blood of the people, their attempts to wage discord between different communities, at the bright aspects are very much there where people of one community stand by the other community and remain alert to maintain the unity of the country. But the unfortunate thing is this that despite such alertness shown by the people, the Central Government by all their actions—may be economic, political or otherwise—have failed to inspire the people in Punjab and take them forward.

We in the Opposition opposed vehemently the Budgets that were presented in this House due to the imposition of President's rule in Punjab. To that we now find support from the Congress (I) MPs also. Last time taking part in the debate the veteran Congress (I) leader from Punjab Dr. G.S. Dhillon expressed that as a matter of fact he thinks there should not have been imposition of President's rule in Punjab. Now I think more and more people are thinking on this line. I will come to that a little later.

I was listening to Mrs. Kaur. On the economic front it is true that one very vital aspect is missing. One very vital thrust that should have been there is the emphasis on industry. That direction is not there in the Budget. It is true that Punjab is an agriculturally advanced and developed State. We may call them a very rich State. But the lack of industrialisation is really giving a breeding ground to those who are trying to mislead the younger generation in Punjab. So when

demands are raised that there should be more industry in Punjab, we give our full support to that demand.

Over the years what is the situation in Punjab in regard to industry? You have had great opportunities in these three years to take vigorous steps to see that Punjab gets more and more industries. But what have you done? You have given them Pepsi Cola. We did not want that to go to Punjab—in fact we did not want that to come to India also. In a very sensitive State where international conspiracies are also focussed, entry of such a multi-national company with bad reputation is not at all conducive neither for economic development nor for the political unity. I would request the Minister and the Government to keep in mind these aspects and give more emphasis in the matter of industrialisation for Punjab.

We could make Punjab an example for the country. They are so much developed in agriculture. We should try to see how agriculture based industries can be developed indigenously, how to mobilise resources for that and how to generate employment on the basis of the local resources. But no such actions have been taken in the past. So we see on one side great development of agriculture and on another side the blind alley of lack of industrialisation. This kind of situation should not continue any more.

Due to the imposition of the President's rule the link of the people with the administration has been severed. Now the officials are alienated from the people. There is no popular Government. Nobody listens to the grievances of the people.

15.00 hrs.

So, they are hurt. And these alienated officers are taking advantage of the peculiar situation in Punjab to perpetuate anti-democratic measures not on the terrorists but on the workers, on the peasantry, on the toiling masses. I want the Minister to take note of this very seriously that in all over Punjab, in almost all the factories where the workers

are demanding their rights, the Government, the Administration, the Police are very active to curb them. These workers are not being allowed to hold gate meetings and to take out processions. The Police, the Administration do not allow them to do so. What should a good Government do? These are the very forces which have not sided the terrorists. They stood firm and remained united against the terrorists. Despite that, mills after mills and factories after factories are being tortured. The goondas of the Management are entering the factories, beating the workers and the police is not taking any action. Even the recognised political parties, their trade unions are being attacked. You go to a police station and lodge a complaint. Who is there to look into it? Some months ago, I went to Ludhiana. You know that it is the seat of textile industry. 80 per cent of the mills are not registered. Nobody maintained any registration record for the workers. The workers do not get their minimum wages or any rights as workers. So they organise strikes, take out processions. Any Government, moreover in this situation of Punjab, would take the side of the workers. But to my dismay, I must say, I was with the processionists. We went to meet the District Commissioner. He know that I would come and also the workers will come. Nobody was there to talk to us. Where will the people go? To whom will the people talk about their grievances? No police was there to protect the rally. They do not require that also. They can take care of their own life indeed. But they are demanding very minimum rights. They should have been protected and should have been given support. But that is not the case. I have got so many examples. I cannot go into them now. Since 20th May of last year, the Mahavir Spinning Mills workers are out of the factory. Why? It is because the Management, the goondas beat the workers inside the factory. Their demand was 'you stop it'. The Labour Commissioner could not force the Management to sign an agreement with the workers. Such is the situation going on. There are some other instances also which I am not going to quote. In GIS, Akbarpur District, Sangrur, for six months the workers are kicked out of the factory and the police is

helping the Management to recruit temporary workers from villages and these workers are prevented from entering the factory. If this is the situation of those who are standing firm for the unity and integrity of the country, if they are treated like this, I do not know what will be the fate of this country.

Now, due to this alienation, in the last year flood which created havoc in Punjab, the worst affected are more than four hundred villages out of 1200 and odd. What have the Government done in regard to relief and rehabilitation of these districts? What has been done? Government had announced that for a pucca house, they will be given Rs. 1000/-. That a ridiculous situation! For one thousand bricks, the cost is Rs. 750. What will they do with a thousand rupees? Then, for fodder Rs. 30 are given. That too the affected people do not get it. As I said, those who are fighting for the right cause are not being protected; they are being tortured. Even in these things, there is a nexus. I request the Minister to take it very seriously. Officials go to the rich people in the villages, they share the booty and the poor people do not get it. This kind of situation should stop immediately. There are so many other things, but I am not going into the same.

We welcome the announcement made by the Prime Minister in the House some days ago for the release of Jodhpur detenués, restriction in the application of Disturbed Areas Act, NS Amendment Act, allowing the foreigners to visit Punjab etc. All these things were overdue. This will help create goodwill, but there are certain things yet to be done. Though he said something about the culprits of Delhi riots, but that was not said whole-heartedly. What happened to the Misra Commission's report and the Jain Banerjee's report? What action has been taken. If you take action on them, surely, that will create a lot of confidence in the people of Punjab.

Then, what happened to Punjab Accord? Certain vital things are linked with it. What about the question of transfer of territory etc. You tell us whether that Accord is

[Sh. Saifuddin Chowdhary]

alive or it is dead. That is simple. What are your options now, nobody knows. There is a Cabinet Sub Committee. It has not met any political party since the beginning. Are you serious about it? Is that the priority accorded to it for tackling it at the national level by all the political parties? The Prime Minister said that there would be district level and sub-divisional level monitoring committees to look into the excesses by the police on the people. That is very good. But have these committees been formed? When the police have to legitimately take action against the terrorists, it is imperative that they are careful to rightly deal with the people in general. No allegations should be made against them. That is very important. They have to be very harsh with the terrorists and have to get the support of the people. These are certain things which are very important and you should take note of them.

Lastly, what about the completion of Theim Dam? I mentioned about it last time also. When will it be completed? I believe nobody is looking after the construction of this dam? It has been an orphan. During the floods, its construction was affected. Also, you will be surprised to know that the workers who are working there said that they would help in shifting the equipment from the construction site to a safer place. They wanted to do that themselves, but the administration did not allow them to do that. How are you going to take the support of the people? The economy cannot be set right without a good political situation there. That is very important. What is required is right political actions now to really save Punjab and save the unity and integrity of the country.

With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol):  
Madam Chairman, I rise to support the demands for grants in respect of the Budget for the State of Punjab. The Budget shows

that the revenue receipts and capital receipts are satisfactorily increasing, as can be seen from the figures for the year 1988-89 and the estimates for 1989-90. The problems of Punjab are very peculiar and very special as compared to those of other States. As was mentioned, we should have waited for the occasion when this Budget could only have been discussed in the proper forum i.e. the Punjab Assembly. But as it is now, when we are discussing this Budget in this august House, we should also think of giving some more aid from the Central Government side to the State of Punjab.

As you know, Punjab is providing us with the vital necessities of life, i.e. food and cloth. As far as food is concerned, large quantity of rice and wheat is produced in Punjab. Even in case of cloth, 23 per cent of the cotton cultivation is in Punjab. As Mr. Chowdhary was mentioning, there is a problem in the spinning mills. Then labour problems and other such problems are also there. Therefore, we should try to encourage some cooperative spinning mills in Punjab so that the farmers can contribute their maximum produce to the spinning mills.

The highest stage of green revolution has been reached in the State of Punjab and Haryana. So, we have to think of giving some special incentives to the farmers of these two States so that the growth rate in agricultural production in these two States is maintained. What should be the special incentives? We are giving incentives to farmers all over the country by way of subsidies i.e. indirect subsidy through fertilisers. Rs. 4000 crores out of the Central Budget is being spent for providing this subsidy. I would suggest that we can think of helping Punjab by providing some direct subsidy for the purchase of organic manures that can be applied in the farms. In this way, the fertility of the farms can be maintained. By increasing the dosage of inorganic fertilisers like the Urea and Sulphate etc., a farmer can produce three crops in a year. He can be induced to have one green manure crop by adding organic matter like the Sann Hamp

and Dhaincha. For that you will have to give subsidy from the Central as well as State Government Budget. This way the fertility of soil can be maintained

In the case of rice production there is a new concept of cultivation of green algae and other such Nitrogen fixing plants. So, subsidy should be provided for this and also for the purchase of Neem cake and other organic manures which are required for its healthy growth. If more subsidy is given to the states of Punjab and Haryana which are producing large quantities of food grains, that will be a new thrust in the field of agriculture.

Madam, Chairman, there is a project of Pepsi Cola which is coming up in Punjab. Many hopes are being raised, especially among the farmers, that the farmers will be getting added value for their vegetable crops, especially potatoes which will be required for this industry. I would urge upon the Central Government to see that this project comes up faster in the State of Punjab.

For the small scale industry the most important requirement is the energy. We see that the Ropar Thermal Power Plant-Stage-III is already cleared but it is awaiting the Planning Commission's approval. The Goindwal Project is also cleared by the Central Electricity Authority.

There is a demand by the State Government of Punjab for a gas-based power plant near Ludhiana. We are planning to have 10,000 MW of electricity production through gas-based power plants throughout the country. So, the demand of the Government of Punjab for a gas-based power plant at Ludhiana is a very genuine one and we should think of it very seriously so that the energy problem which is cropping up in all the States and specially in States like Punjab can be mitigated to a great extent, if not fully.

There is a provision of about Rs. 100 and odd crores for poultry farming, etc. Since agricultural production is reaching a saturation point, the farmers of Punjab should be

given an opportunity to diversify their activities in the areas of piggery, poultry farming, etc. Therefore, this provision is most welcome.

Last but not the least, I would like to mention about the law and order situation in the State of Punjab. We welcome the decision taken by the Prime Minister about the release of the Jodhpur detenues. I would like to suggest one thing. In order to reduce the expenditure on police forces, we should think of developing more and more Homeguard Units. The strength of the Homeguards must be increased in urban as well as rural areas so that courage can be built up among the people themselves to combat the evil of terrorism. More incentives should be given to the people of Punjab of this purpose.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): Madam Chairperson, last time when we were discussing the Punjab Budget, from both the sides we expressed the hope that that would be the last occasion to discuss the Punjab Budget in this House. But unfortunately, it is not so.

I really welcome certain steps taken by the Government to ease the situation in Punjab, such as the release of the Jodhpur prisoners, the withdrawal of certain Acts applicable only to the State of Punjab and permitting the entry of foreigners into Punjab. These steps have eased the situation and lessened the crisis to some extent. But every member of this House wants that there should be a political solution to the Punjab problem. Punjab problem is not the problem of the ruling party alone. It is a national problem and we, on this side, are as much interested as the ruling Party to see that the Punjab problem is solved once for all. That is why, Madam, for the past two years, we have been insisting that the Prime Minister should have a dialogue with the Opposition Parties. He should have taken them into confidence in finding out a solution

[Sh. V.S. Krishna Iyer]

to this problem. I do not understand why the Prime Minister has so far not cared to take the National opposition leaders into confidence to ease the situation. It is really very surprising.

Madam, the whole nation salutes the people of Punjab. Even under the worst circumstances, even when terrorism was at its peak, the contribution of the people of Punjab in the form of foodgrains is the same as in the past. Despite the drought and the floods, the brave farmers of Punjab have been contributing to the granary of our nation. We cannot forget their contribution and we salute them especially for the way they withstood the attacks of terrorists. It is the people of Punjab and not the security forces, who are guarding the State of Punjab. Though terrorism has been brought under control to some extent, it is still existing to some extent. Government of India, with all their Forces, have not been able to eliminate terrorism altogether. That is why we have all been demanding that we must find a political solution. We must take steps to see that the youth of Punjab who have gone astray are brought back into the mainstream. I would just like to touch one or two points. I was extremely happy to read from the newspaper that some Sikh leaders have stated that a popular Government should be established in Punjab soon. I think that is the demand of the entire people of Punjab. They want their own Government. They don't want a Government ruled by the Centre. You took this step when terrorism was at its highest. Even now it is like that only. Somehow you don't want to take that chance once again. Yet, the people of Punjab themselves want it. So, I earnestly appeal to the Central Government to give a serious thought to it. Before that, you must see that except those leaders who are involved in criminal activities, all others are released. We don't understand why you have kept them under detention. If they are to be tried, you try them quickly. You have got Special Courts. You have early trials and see that the Courts take a decision soon. You have neither done this

nor you have released the leaders like Prakash Singh Badal, Tohra and others. They are under detention. You say that you don't have leaders to talk to. How will you get leaders when you have put them in prison? So, it is very necessary that you should find a solution to this problem.

Madam, I want to give one or two suggestions on this occasion. So far as food front is concerned, we are certainly happy that Punjab is keeping up its tradition. Because of unemployment, unfortunately, the youths of Punjab are very much distressed and disgruntled. Of course, unemployment is there in every State but particularly the youths of Punjab are strong enough and they can do work. Without work, they are being misled and are taken to terrorist activities. So, the entire House is demanding that the Government should start sufficient number of industries in the State of Punjab. Whenever a discussion comes regarding this, the main thrust of every speaker is that Government should come forward and start industries. But unfortunately the Government have no plan at all to start industries—both small and large scale—except the Rail Coach Factory at Kapurthala. It has given jobs to only a few people. Except this, there is no other industry worth the name which is started by the Central Government. After the President's Rule was imposed, they have not started any major industry except the controversial and unwanted Pepsi Cola Project which is yet to come. So, I strongly urge upon the Central Government to see that some special provisions are made for the State of Punjab. We must see that every youth in Punjab is employed. We should see that he should stand on his own legs. If it is done, then there will be no question of terrorism at all in the State of Punjab. I hope the hon. Minister will give a serious thought to this suggestion and make special provision, particularly, in respect of the State of Punjab for starting a number of industries.

Another thing is that they have progressed very well in agriculture and dairy farming. It is very necessary that there should be diversification of agro-product



industries in Punjab. So, I would request the Government to do something in this regard also.

One thing which I want to mention here is that we should have complete trust in the people of Punjab and particularly the Sikhs. We cannot forget the sacrifices made by the people of Punjab and particularly the Sikhs for the country's freedom. Except a few misguided youths, the rest of the people want that India should be strong and united. They believe in national integrity. They never want a separate State. We must trust these people and take them into confidence and see that a permanent solution is found. I hope the Government will open its eyes. They should have taken into confidence all the Opposition Leaders and found out a solution. Don't postpone it till the next elections, because elections are on the cards. Don't say, "We will look afterwards." Representatives of Punjab must be here in the Lok Sabha along with the other people. So, we have to see that a popular Government is installed in Punjab also soon.

With these words, I thank you.

[Translation]

CH. RAM PRAKASH (Ambala): Madam Chairman, the funds allocated to Punjab in this Budget are more than sufficient if utilized properly. For this, I thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister. So the question arises as to what is the proper way to utilize these funds. The situation in Punjab is not conducive to the very existence of the meek in the State. Only the brave, capable of meeting force with force, can survive there. I am sorry to say that thousands of Hindus and Sikhs have migrated from Punjab under fear of terrorists to other States and there too their condition is miserable. Hindus were the first target of terrorists. In my maiden speech in Parliament, I had put forward certain suggestion. Our many leaders and workers were of the opinion that if a settlement was arrived at with the terrorists, they may mend their ways. I have been a member of the Punjab

Assembly for 17 years and as such I know the character of these terrorist, I therefore, said that these terrorists do not deserve any leniency and they should be shot at sight. We read reports in newspapers about arrests of terrorists. If 100 terrorists were trapped and 5 of them died, 95 were taken into custody by the police. You please tell me if prosecution is launched against them, who will come forward to give evidence against them because their lives will not be spared by the other terrorists. So shooting them at-sight is the best course to follow. At that time, I had said that the Punjab police was corrupt and was working in connivance with the terrorists. It is their patronage that an S.I. has got Rs. 1 crore and an S P several crores of rupees. If you make an enquiry, the veracity of my statement will be confirmed. Agriculture and industries in Punjab would have come to a grinding halt if the B.S.F. and the C.R.P.F. had not been posted there. I feel that giving so much funds to Punjab is not necessary. Instead if Punjab police is replaced by the police of some other state, the menace of terrorism will end. The hon. home Minister is a very capable Minister but he is not aware of this fact. If the protector turns devourer, how can one remain safe? The Punjab police is corrupt and is deceiving the Government. The only remedy seems to be to remove it from the scene and deploy police force from another State. Innocent people are killed there, and 95% of the victims today are Sikhs. Lesser number of Hindus are killed because terrorists have no religious or ethical values. Killing people is their sole objective. Our Government becomes lenient. Strictness and not leniency is the principle on which Governments should be run. Firmness is the answer to the Punjab problem. It can ensure the smooth functioning of the agricultural and industrial sectors in the State. There is no doubt that the people of Punjab are brave. Both Punjab and Haryana have made progress. But terrorists have blocked the path of progress. Their activities have become a nightmare for the people of Punjab. A newspaper called 'Hind Samachar', published from Punjab, carries on the front page reports alongwith the number and photographs of each and every

[Ch. Ram Prakash]

person killed in Punjab everyday, whether their number is 5, 10, 20 or 40. If 40 persons become victims of terrorists, you will find that 10 of them are Hindus and 30 are Sikhs. Therefore, stringent measures should be taken to check terrorist activities in Punjab.

Now I would like to refer to the SYL canal which will serve Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. This project has been lying incomplete for a long time. It was inaugurated by the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and I feel that as long as there is terrorism in Punjab, it cannot be completed as people will continue to put obstacles since they have no consideration for the country and no patriotic fervour. I fail to understand as to what has happened to the people. Millions of rupees spent on the SYL canal from the national exchequer have gone waste without any benefit accruing to the people. If this canal is completed early, the areas to be benefited by it can contribute another 50% to the total national foodgrain production. Then the country need not import foodgrains. I request the Government to complete the SYL canal soon as it can totally change the agricultural scenario in Punjab and Haryana.

I have drawn attention towards the Punjab police, welfare of people and the SYL canal. If these three points are attended to, the problems being faced by the people of Punjab will be automatically solved to a large extent and they will have considerable relief.

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Madam Chairman, I support the Punjab Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister. I am happy to note that despite severe constraints, problems created by terrorism and tragic incidents, Punjab is making steady progress. In 1988-89 the revenue receipts are likely to go up to Rs. 1980.86 crores, which means an increase of Rs. 266.84 crores. The figures under the tax and non-tax heads have also recorded an increase of Rs. 257.78 crores in 1988-89. The troubled situation in Punjab has not deterred its people from fulfilling their

duty towards their State.

15.33 hrs.

[MR. SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Once again the Punjab Budget is being discussed here in Parliament. It would have been better if the Punjab Budget had been discussed in the Punjab Assembly itself and a decision thereon should have been taken by the State legislators. It is the misfortune of the people of Punjab and the nation as a whole that terrorism, which raised its head long time back, still persists in Punjab in one form or the other. It can be said with surety that as compared to other States the people of Punjab were shorn of religious parochialism and prejudices. So it is all the more surprising to see terrorism being propagated there in the name of religion. It is really fascism in disguise of terrorism. This process of starting terrorism in Punjab is part of a larger conspiracy of capitalist and reactionary forces within and outside the country and is in fact designed to overtake and hold to ransom the entire country. Not only Punjab but the whole country is suffering. What could make the people of Punjab happier than handing over of administration of the State to a democratically elected Government? The earnest efforts made under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi have been lauded by the world and are bearing fruit as public opinion is building up in India and abroad against terrorism and conspiracy to form Khalistan in Punjab started by the fascist forces. Even countries who, hitherto abetted, encouraged and helped terrorism, have become sceptical and are dissociating themselves from it. The atmosphere building up in Pakistan will no more help terrorism. Climate for them in countries like Britain, where they were getting some patronage, is now hotting up. Now in Punjab and whole of India there is opposition to terrorism.

The fascist forces who were raising their ugly head as Khalistanis are breathing their last. There is no doubt that if the people of Punjab show some courage and the coun-

try men have some patience, these forces will die their natural death, because falsehood can never win over truth.

Agriculture has been the main occupation of the people of Punjab from the very beginning Punjab and Haryana have been the granary of the country. True to its tradition, Punjab has still been maintaining this position Punjab has been basically a state of small-scale-industries in which people of the whole state are involved. No heavy industry has been set up there but due to the liberal attitude and efforts of Central Government, an integral coach factory has been set up there and I am happy that it has started production in the scheduled time. The people of Punjab have also greatly contributed to its progress. Punjab is moving on the path of progress because the State Government is functioning under the guidance of the Central Government and a number of good steps in various fields have been taken there.

Not taking much time of the House, I would like to butress the submission of one of our hon. Member Smt. Bhinder with regard to allocation of more funds for repairs of roads damaged due to floods. The Government should provide extra funds for the repairs of damaged roads. Punjab issue is a very delicate issue and attention should be paid to this not only by the Government of Punjab but also by the Central Government. Not only the people of Punjab but the migrant labourers also have greatly contributed to the development of Punjab. The role of migrant labourers in this regard cannot be ignored. The migrant labourers who have come from Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh have thrown their body and Soul together in the development of Punjab. They have worked there even risking their lives and today also these migrant labourers can be seen working in the fields of Punjab. But what are the future-prospects of these labourers? I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the miserable condition of migrant labourers. The Central Government should issue instructions to the Government of Punjab to

provide minimum wages to these migrant labourers. Their condition is so pitiable that when the harvesting season is over and they want to return back to their native places, an amount is deducted from their wages so that they are forced to come back again to work for them. When the migrant labourers come to Punjab in search of livelihood to satisfy their hunger, people begin to scumble to grab as many such labourers as they can. I am pained to see the plight of the labourers who toil in the sweat of their brows for the prosperity of Punjab. Not only this, no proper housing arrangements are made for them. They are living there in a very ragged condition. I request you to appoint an officer of the rank of Deputy Labour Commissioner who after conducting a survey of every village will prepare a list of migrant labourers working there and make arrangements for creation of a welfare fund for them. He will also ensure for their medical treatment and manage for free to and fro journey for them. The migrant labourers are a symbol of national unity. The Government should do something for such labourers who migrate to Punjab, Haryana, Assam and West Bengal in the search of livelihood and toil there even at the cost of their lives with full dedication to the mother land.

I agree to the view of Mr. Saifuddin Choudhary that no ban should be imposed there on labour movements. Protection must be provided to the soldiers who are fighting for the cause of socialistic programmes. The Government of Punjab should provide protection to these soldiers who are being exploited and suppressed by management with the assistance of goonda elements.

With these words, I conclude and express my thanks to you for allowing me to speak on it.

SHRI RAM NARAIN SINGH (Bhiwani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very unfortunate that Punjab Budget is again being discussed in the House. Last time when Punjab Budget was presented in this House, Members both from ruling as well as opposition benches had expected that it was the last budget for

[Sh. Ram Narain Singh]

Punjab to be presented here. The people are expecting that very soon a popular Government will take charge of the administration in Punjab and will start functioning. Unfortunately, no popular Government has so far been installed there. Had there been a popular Government in Punjab, the problem of terrorism would have been solved there. We find that at present more people are being killed in Punjab as compared to the period when Mr. Barnala was the Chief Minister of Punjab. The first and the foremost duty of a Government is to protect the life and property of the people. The Central Government which has imposed President Rule in Punjab has failed to protect the life and property of the people of Punjab. The people in Punjab are being slaughtered like cattle. Had the Central Government been really interested in tackling the Punjab problem, it would have tackled it by now. It appears that the Government is least interested in solving Punjab problem.

Elections were to be held in Haryana in 1987 and with an eye on election, the popular Government of Punjab was dismissed at that time but for the Central Government it proved a Pandora's box. In Haryana and Punjab, the condition of farmers and labourers are good because they are labourious and hard working. No assistance is being provided to them by the Government, even then they are making progress on their own efforts.

The construction of Thein Dam in Punjab has not yet been completed. The Government should strive for its early completion so that water could be supplied to Haryana and Rajasthan along with Punjab. This year Punjab had suffered a heavy loss due to floods. Similarly, S.Y.L. canal has not yet been completed though its foundation stone was laid by late Smt. Indira Gandhi 4-5 years ago and at that time, it was announced that it would be completed within a period of one year. Still it has not been completed. The farmers of Haryana are suffering heavy losses amounting to Rs. 100

crore annually due to non-completion of the canal, even then no action is being taken by Government for its early completion. Before elections in Haryana, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of an Oil Refinery in Karnal and promised to get it completed within one year but no further action is being taken in this regard. To my view, injustice is being done to all opposition ruled states. It is a sheer injustice.

The problem of terrorism and extremism could be solved in Punjab if the problems of farmers and labourers had been tackled. There is acute unemployment problem in Punjab. The educated unemployed youths, when do not find employment, are indulged in anti-social activities and wage war against the Government. Had they been provided employment in heavy industries and village industries, they would not have adopted the course of violence. Punjab Electricity Board have submitted many projects for approval of the Government but these are not being approved by the Government. The supply of water and electricity is a dire necessity for the farmers. A very high capacity power plant of Pong Dam was reduced to ashes, as a result of which Punjab and Haryana have suffered heavy losses but the Government is least concerned for its repairs. Now crores of rupees are required for its repairs. If no assistance is provided to farmers and labourers in Punjab, the problem of terrorism cannot be solved and the problem is becoming rather more complicated. I think Government have no intention of solving this problem. The problem must be solved. Farmers and labourers live in villages. In India, once prices of industrial goods, be it textile, iron, or cement or for that matter any other goods, are increased they do not come down again but on this score our farmers are very unlucky. The prices of wheat come down to Rs. 173 a quintal at harvesting season but as soon as wheat is procured from them, prices go as high as Rs. 300 a quintal. In India, the price of gram had gone as high as Rs. 800-900 a quintal but now its price has come down to Rs. 500 a quintal as the gram crop is ready. Similarly, one time the price of gwar, a fodder for animals has gone up to Rs.

1100 a quintal but now it has come down to Rs. 300 a quintal only but no measures have been taken by the Government in this regard. This injustice is always done to the farmers. Several hon. Members belonging to Congress Party also advocated the case of farmers, but no heed is paid to them. When attention is not being paid to this even after requests made by hon. Members of the Congress Party, what to talk of our submission? Today farmers & labourers are subjected to a lot of injustices and they are not getting remunerative prices of their produce. This goes with the saying that nearer the church, farther from Heaven. Delhi is the seat of the Central Government. There are about 360 villages in Delhi but the land of these villagers is being acquired by the DDA at the rate of Rs. 15 a sq. year. The same land is being re-sold at the rate of Rs. 2000 per square yard by the DDA. Thus injustice to farmers is being done in all spheres. Even then loud claims are made about the measures taken for welfare of the farmers. Farmers will give a befitting reply to it at the time of elections. Only then they will realise what they have done for them. Punjab issue is a very gigantic problem and until and unless injustice to the farmers and labourers is stopped Government will not get support of the people of Punjab 80 per cent of the population of India lives in villages but neither water nor electricity is provided to them, these people arrange themselves. Therefore the Government should construct Thein Dam, S.Y.L. canal and should set up oil refinery in Karnal and get the construction of Rajasthan canal completed which has been lying uncompleted for the last 20 years. In Punjab and Haryana, the labourers get Rs. 30 as wages while in Eastern U.P., Orissa, Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan they are paid only Rs. 10 as daily wages I, therefore want to know the reasons for this disparity. Do the Government officials misappropriate the money? The condition of labourers in Punjab and Haryana is better because of their own efforts and deligency. Until and unless steps to improve the condition of farmers and labourers are taken, these issues cannot be solved. You stated that Punjab issue has assumed the national

importance and therefore a joint meeting of all party leaders would be called upon to discuss this issue but till today no such meeting has been arranged. Then how the issue can be solved?

With these words, I express my thanks to the Chair for allowing me to speak.

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN (Raipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support and express my views on Punjab Budget. I would like to put my views in detail as the presence from all groups and parties here seems to be very good today. I may slightly deviate from the routine discussion. We will have take a serious review of the existing situation in Punjab. Everybody knows that we have fought against imperialism and if Punjab problem is also a challenge posed up unperialism. We will fight it out. We have been succeeding and shall succeed in our further efforts. But I would like to point out one thing that it is because of communalism that we have suffered, have found ourselves weak, have not succeeding in our efforts and the result has been the partition of the country. If we seriously examine the basic reasons which are responsible for creating the Punjab problem, we will find that communalism has been the basic reason behind it. All the political parties should unite to meet this challenge. Our unanimous efforts with all sincerity would make our task easy and the problem will be solved within no time. But instead of uniting ourselves to meet the challenge, we are making efforts to find out a solution for it. I would appeal to all the political parties to unite in order to fight against the challenge. We have lost Sant Longowal, who had got the capability to meet the challenge and who had true knowledge of religion. Not only Akali Dal, but the whole nation has suffered this loss. People were uniting under his leadership. Secondly, we have lost Shrimati Indira Gandhi, who stepped forward to unite the people. Nothing else, but communalism has been primarily responsible for these untoward incidents. Despite this, I regret to say, some people bear sympathetic attitude towards the murderers of Shrimati Gandhi and Sant Longowal. It is because there are

[Sh. Kevur Bhushan]

political differences between the Congress and the Opposition. We should, better shed off our political differences and move ahead unanimously to save the nation from such threats. It is not matter whether we belong to one political group or the other. We can sit in the House together and we as true citizens of India, can sit together and make our unanimous efforts to meet the challenge and solve the problem. Our unanimous efforts may solve the Punjab problem. Our party has taken an initiative in this regard. We have always been appealing to all the political parties to make joint efforts to solve the Punjab problem.

Secondly, there are the measures to solve any problem, whether it is economic, social or political. If we determine to tackle the basic problem, our efforts would bear positive results. So far as economic conditions and cultural heritage is concerned Punjab is quite a prosperous state. But this very state is being ruined today. For the reconstruction of this state I have already offered my suggestions and made an appeal for collective efforts to challenge communalism. The agricultural labourers migrated from various parts of the country to Punjab and are in a most pitiable condition there. What to talk of labourers, the industrialists are also suffering heavy losses and agricultural output is decreasing day by day. So the Government should take measures to set up agricultural industries there. The Government hardly bothers about the adverse effects of the new scientific techniques and equipments on manpower. Those industries which have adverse effects on manpower should not be encouraged. Agricultural industries should be set up in Punjab and employment opportunities should be created to absorb the local unemployed youths so that they might contribute in building of the Nation. It would automatically bring about a change in their attitude. In Punjab industries based on agriculture should be encouraged. You should also take note of the fact that land Reform Act has not been properly implemented in Punjab. I have vis-

ited 12,800 villages in Punjab. Rich farmers have big farms, say about 1000 acres, while the Harijans and tribals do not have even an inch of land to cultivate. If the land Reforms Act is implemented earnestly, Harijans will be able to get their share of land and thus they will be able to face the challenge of terrorism courageously. Weaker sections will have to be uplifted in order to check terrorism there. It will automatically solve the problem of terrorism. Big land lords provide shelter and protection to terrorists. If they are discouraged, terrorism will be no more there. Out of these 12,800 villages there is not even a single village is effected by the feelings of communalism. Hindus and Sikhs have no differences between them and both the communities have been fighting against terrorism.

15.57 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

People of the country are with the people of Punjab in their struggle against terrorism. I would urge upon the opposition parties to join us in our efforts to provide full help to them.

[*English*]

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA (Patiala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are again discussing the Punjab Budget in the Lok Sabha. It is very unfortunate and I wonder how long we are going to discuss the Punjab Budget in the Lok Sabha. This is, I should say, a deliberate attempt to shatter Punjab economically. If you go into the past happenings in Punjab, you will know from where the Punjab problem started and why the Government is not at all serious in solving this problem. It cannot be solved with half-hearted measures and with half-hearted steps. This problem has now assumed the national importance. It is a national problem now and it can be solved only by concrete and solid political steps and that can be taken only if the Government has the will to solve it. Basically, this problem was started by the Centre or by the ruling party and this

problem is eating away or consuming all the revenues and income of the State and that is being spent mostly on police and security forces. That is why the development of the State is very much affected.

16.00 hrs.

And whatever remains, there is rampant corruption in the Administration, in all levels in the security forces and the police. We are proud and we always say that there is no communal problem in Punjab. Punjab is the State where there is no communal tension even at present, even in the face of so much provocation when we can see communal clashes and riots in all parts of the country. But in Punjab.....

MR. SPEAKER: We will take it up later.

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA: I will continue later, Sir.

16.01 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE.:  
APPROVAL OF NOTIFICATION NO. S.O.  
223 (E) DATED 23RD MARCH, 1989. ON  
LAYING OF THAKKAR COMMISSION'S  
REPORTS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(S. BUTA SINGH): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, this House approves the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs No. S.O. 223 (E) dated the 23rd March, 1989, by which the Notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs No. S.O. 260 (E) dated the 15th May, 1986, has been rescinded."

Sir, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, was assassinated on

31st October, 1984. On 20th November, 1984, Government appointed a Commission of Inquiry for the purpose of making an inquiry into the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Justice M.P. Thakkar, a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court of India, constituted the Commission.

The Commission submitted its Interim Report on 19th November, 1985. The Final Report, including the Appendices forming part of the Final Report, was submitted by the Commission on 27th February, 1986.

In its Final Report, the Commission recommended that in the larger public interest the Report may not be made public. As will be clear when the reports are placed on the Table of the House, the Commission has recommended further investigation by appropriate agencies into certain matters identified by the Commission. In support of its recommendation that the report may not be made public, the Commission observed that the publication of the report would hamper the further investigations and also cause embarrassment or prejudice to certain persons. The Commission itself described its effort in this behalf as an "exploratory exercise" and pointed out that the material gathered in the course of the exercise was not on the basis of an enquiry held by the Commission as contemplated under section 8 (B) of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, or under Rule 5 of the Commissions of Inquiry (Central) Rules, 1972.

Government accepted the recommendation of the Commission. Accordingly, the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, was amended by Ordinance No. 6 of 1986 dated 14th May, 1986. Following the Ordinance, a notification was made on 15th May, 1986 in exercise of the powers under section 3 sub-section (5) of the Act, as amended by the Ordinance. Hon. Members are aware that the Ordinance No. 6 of 1986 was replaced by the Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Act, 1986, which received the assent of the President on 20th August, 1986.

A special Investigation Team (SIT) had