

[Sh. Kamal Nath]

tion; we are providing medicinal help; provision has been made in the Bill for prevention of communicable diseases by way of immunisation of live-stock in those areas; we are funding for setting up of veterinary units in national parks, etc. We shall look at this problem in Kanha.

Sir, once again I would like to thank the hon. Members for the kind of support they have extended to this amendment Bill. There has been a rare unanimity and I am thankful and grateful to every one.

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK(Bolangir): Sir, maximum number of tribal people are living in the Western parts of Orissa like Koraput, Kalahandi, Phulwani, Bolangir, etc., I am from that area. The State Government has built a deer park at Harishankar of Bolangir. I would request the Central Government and the hon. Minister to provide more money for that. To check poaching if the Central Government takes a big area there and have a national park, that will be better for the people of western Orissa. That is my request.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The problem in these areas around national parks and sanctuaries has been felt. We have embarked on a very elaborate-eco-development scheme for these areas. I shall have a look at the specific problem the Member is mentioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:
"That the Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 52 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 to 52 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

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

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

16.23 hrs.

CANCELLATION OF GENERAL ELECTIONS IN PUNJAB BILL
PUNJAB BUDGET 1991-92 —GENERAL DISCUSSION
AND
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (PUNJAB) 1991-92

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up combined discussion on Cancellation of General Elections in Punjab Bill, 1991 General Discussion on the Punjab Budget, and the discussion and voting on Demands for Grants on Account (Punjab) for 1991-92 for which 3 1/2 hours have been allotted. The Minister may move motion for consideration of the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to cancel certain notifications calling for general elections in relation to the State of Punjab, be taken into consideration."

As Hon. Members are aware, Elections to the Tenth Lok Sabha and to certain State Assemblies were announced in April last. The Election Commission, however, after taking into account all relevant factors and the prevailing circumstances in the State of Punjab and having been satisfied that it was not possible to hold fair and free polls in that State on the scheduled dates, extended the date of polls twice - first from the original date of 20th May, 1991 to 22nd June, 1991 and then to 25th September, 1991.

After the announcement of elections, large scale killings and massacre of innocent people had taken place. Up to 15 July, 1991, 23 contesting candidates had been killed necessitating the countermanding of elections in various constituencies in the State. Because of postponement of elections protracted security arrangements for the safety of candidates contesting the elections have become imperative. It is becoming extremely difficult to make such arrangements for a long period by deploying paramilitary forces who are already under great strain as they had been sent to that State after they had completed strenuous election duty in other States. In view of all the aforesaid circumstances and difficulties and also to guard against further loss of lives of the candidates and other innocent persons, it has become necessary to cancel the notifications calling for general elections in the State of Punjab for the present. Elections shall be held as soon as congenial atmosphere is created for holding free and fair elections in Punjab.

The situation in Punjab is still not condu-

cive for holding free and fair elections in the State and the Government has been forced to take the extraordinary step of cancellation of elections in Punjab. The Government, however, have considered it proper not to assume sweeping powers to cancel an election by making amendment to the Statute as giving such sweeping powers is fraught with grave dangers and may be misused. On the other hand, Government has brought this Bill as a one time measure to cancel the elections only in the State of Punjab in view of extraordinary situation existing there. It is my earnest hope that the Bill will have the unanimous support of all sections of the House.

Sir, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to cancel certain notifications calling for general elections in relation to the State of Punjab be taken into consideration."

"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, 1992, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands 1 to 30."

Demands for Grants on Account (Punjab) 1991-92 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grant on Account submitted to the Vote of the House (Inclusive of the amount already voted by the Lok Sabha on 11th March, 1991).	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1.	Agricultural and Forests	84,98,94,000	27,53,22,000

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grant on Account submitted to the Vote of the House (Inclusive of the amount already voted by the Lok Sabha on 11th March, 1991).	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
2.	Animal Husbandry and Fisheries	34,94,01,000	1,34,62,000
3.	Co-operation	12,76,17,000	54,69,05,000
4.	Defence Service Welfare	3,73,86,000	37,50,000
5.	Education	4,42,88,48,000	23,43,000
6.	Elections	5,01,27,000	...
7.	Excise and Taxation	12,62,82,000	...
8.	Finance	2,20,17,48,000	7,75,72,000
9.	Food and Supplies	3,64,95,000	6,71,04,48,000
10.	General Administration	14,94,89,000	...
11.	Health and Family Welfare	1,38,98,89,000	...
12.	Home Affairs and Justice	1,84,04,07,000	7,50,00,000
13.	Industries	10,51,38,000	29,63,25,000
14.	Information and Public Relations	4,74,93,000	...
15.	Irrigation and Power	11,34,55,47,000	4,74,31,47,000
16.	Labour and Employment	4,98,63,000	...
17.	Local Government, Housing and Urban development	15,57,45,000	21,20,81,000
18.	Personnel and Administrative Reforms	1,76,25,000	...
19.	Planning	2,18,59,36,000,	...
20.	Programme Implementation	3,00,000	...
21.	Public Works	1,42,01,35,000	75,22,00,000
22.	Revenue and Rehabilitation	68,00,51,000	...

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grant on Account submitted to the Vote of the House (Inclusive of the amount already voted by the Lok Sabha on 11th March, 1991).	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
23.	Rural Development and Panchayats	32,42,25,000	...
24.	Science, Technology and Environment	90,90,000	63,42,000
25.	Social and Women's Welfare and Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes	39,60,67,000	4,18,82,000
26.	State Legislature	1,82,88,000	...
27.	Technical Education and Industrial Training	28,88,04,000	39,63,000
28.	Tourism and Cultural Affairs	1,94,76,000	2,59,50,000
29.	Transport	88,88,10,000	22,04,11,000
30.	Vigilance	1,78,77,000	...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhogendra Jha has tabled end Motions for the above Demands for grants. He is not present here. Shri M.L. Khurana may speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to participate in the discussion on the Punjab budget and the cancellation of Punjab election.

MR. CHAIRMAN, Sir, I have received four pamphlets on the Punjab budget the first one is of 3 pages, the second one is of 13 pages, the third one is of 23 pages and the fourth one is of 55 pages.

16.27 hrs.

RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*

Further a speech of one page contain-

ing both the version Hindi and English on each side of the page has also been received by me.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Whose speech it is?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: This is the speech of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and it relates to Punjab. I am stating all this just to show the seriousness of the Government regarding this budget. The Administrative details of the year 1990-91 must have also been supplied to us. It is usually attached with every budget. There is no account of the last year income and expenditure in it. First I thought that this particular paper might be missing but I came to know later on that there was no such paper. The previous year's administrative report which is very much a part of the budget has also not been made available to us. I am pointing out all these shortcomings

[Sh. Madan Lai Khurana]

to show that the Government has taken this budget very lightly in the same manner as it is taking lightly the problems of Punjab and Kashmir.

MR. Chairman, Sir, the details have been given in this budget Head-wise instead of scheme-wise. The scheme wise details can be easily studied. The revised estimate of 1990-91 which includes Punjab Pay Commission also has become meaningless as one cannot know these two, separately. The revised estimates would have been more meaningful if the Punjab Pay Commission were attached to it separately.

Sir, thirdly, I would like to say something about the data given in the budget. There was an estimate of Rs. 196.94 crores for the Health and Family Welfare in the year 1990-91, which has been reduced this year to Rs. 185.38 crores. What does it mean? Is there no need of family planning or does the Government want more procreation of children so that there may be increase in the numbers of the terrorists? Family Planning is a very important issue but the amount on this head has been reduced?

The budget for the Home Affairs, law and order etc. is Rs. 259.1 crores this year against the previous year's amount of Rs. 248.94 crores. So there is an increase of only 2.5 per cent in the budget for this year but in actual sense there is a reduction in the allotment if we take the price-rise into account which has increased by 13-14 per cent this year.

Further, we take the data of Industry and Mining. Last year, it was Rs. 17.52 crores, which has been reduced to Rs. 15.71 crores this year. The Government always claims that it is giving much weightage to agriculture, but the amount allocated for the major and minor irrigation under the Head of Capital outlay has been reduced to Rs. 44.87 crores while it was Rs. 52.01 crores during the last year. Thus almost in every sphere there is a reduction in this

year's allotment against that of the previous year. For instance, the amount allocated for the flood-control is Rs. 10 crores against the last year amount of Rs. 23 crores, for Art and culture Rs. 3.3 crores against Rs. 3.6 crores, for urban development Rs. 5.75 crores against Rs. 9.48 crores, for Housing Rs. 14.39 crores against Rs. 17.29 crores and for public works Rs. 7.15 crores against Rs. 11.81 crores. I am referring to these data in order to emphasise as to how lightly this budget has been prepared, as a 'Munim' maintains his ledger. No one took trouble to give due consideration as to what priority should be given to which subject.

We have been observing this practice since long that the President's address to the Parliament and the Finance Minister's budget speech invariably covers the policies of the Government for the next year. The same is observed also in case of the Governor's address to the Vidhan Sabha and the State Finance Minister's budget speech. Though there is Governor in Punjab but his Address is missing in this Budget. Anyhow the Finance Minister's budget speech should essentially contain the Government's priorities which is no where in this budget. This budget does not contain any reference of the Former Prime Minister's assurance regarding providing employment to one lakh persons every year. Contrarily a ban on the recruitment has been imposed. What happened to that promise? I would like to know the reason of his silence over the issue of S.Y.L. in the entire budget speech. He must have clarified the Government's policy regarding the S.Y.L. for which there had been an accord with Shri Longowal. What are the reasons of destroying that project over which crores of rupees have been spent? The construction work is at halt even in that part which comes under Haryana. Soil is filling again in the canal which was dug after spending crores of rupees. Thus crores of rupees have gone waste without any use.

Would the hon. Minister be pleased to state the House about the Thein Dam project. When it is going to be completed? Due to centre's indifferent attitude the Thein Dam

is not being constructed as rapidly as it should be and as a result of this slow process the target of supplying Ravi water to Vyas and there from to Suttlej could not have been achieved and the result is that the whole water which should have been used for India soil making fertile and trees, is being supplied to Pakistan. Not a single word has been said by him regarding that dam as to why it is not being completed soon. Though the nature provided us water yet our soil is thirsty. Due to this reason, today the economy of Punjab is almost on the verge of decay. Once upon a time the per capita income in Punjab was much more than the other States. Today, most of the industries like Rice Mills, woollen and Spinning Mills etc. in Punjab are closing. Due to the prevailing situation in Punjab, the traders of other States do not supply their goods to Punjab censing loss to the business there. Besides there, a new trend has also emerged that the trucks sent to Punjab from other places are taken to unknown place. It is said that the militants stop these trucks and took them to some unknown places. As far as, I know 33 trucks have been lost uptill now. There is another side also of the picture. A truck owner boldly accepted the challenge and went to sell his goods in that state and he sold his goods there without any difficulty. Actually, most of the trucks are abducted in the midway in the name of terrorists by the robbers, fraudulents and the criminals having political patronage. Hence the traders of the other provinces hesitate to send their goods to Punjab. All these incidents must be investigated through the CBI This is a large scale scandal which is being committed in the name of militants only the CBI enquiry can reveal the facts. Vajpayeeji also referred to the abduction of trucks. These incidents have been taking place for the last so many days. Kidnapping cases have also become the usual practice in Punjab. As per my information, 30-40 kidnapping cases have taken place. It is upto the Government whether it denies or verifies the incidents. These kidnappings include the maternal cousin of the Punjab Police Chief, Shri D.S. Manger, the brother of the District Magistrate of Majitha district, Shri Paramjit Singh

Gill, the brother of the S.P. of Sangrur, Shri S.S. Bhullar, two brothers of the Bombay Police Commissioner, Shri Charam Singh Azad and a near relative of Shri Sandhu. These kidnappings are done by the militants either for ransom or for the release of the colleagues who are in jails. Such incidents are taking place frequently in Punjab.

Now, I would like to say something about the cancellation of the elections in Punjab. The Congress has always treated Punjab politically. They have seen it in the light of the interest of their party only. Nation is above the party. But the policy of the congress is the party first and the nation afterwards instead of the country first and the party afterwards.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to point out that through this budget the Government would be able to strengthen Punjab neither from the point of view of security nor economic prosperity. There is neither any reference with regard to the rehabilitation of the migrants of Punjab nor any mention about improving the law and order situation there. There is no indication about these problems in this budget. I am sorry to state that whenever any attempt was made to restore normally in Punjab though you gave a thought to it the Central Government did not show any encouragement and retracted and the problems grew from bad to worse and at history stands evidence to it. I would like to cite an example. Rajiv-Longowal accord took place. Dates were fixed for settlement but till now this accord could not be implemented and it is lying as it was. It resulted in allegation against you that you retract from your commitments.

Elections were held in Punjab and Mr. Barnala became Chief Minister. The then Prime Minister stated that mother India (Bharat Mata) has attained victory. After that, hon. President praised Barnala during his address. Which is not done in ordinary course. Four months later in a statement made in the House by the then Minister of Home Affairs it was stated they the same Mr. Barnala was stated the most dishonest per-

[Sh. Madan Lai Khurana]

son whereas four months ago he was compared with Ranjit Singh and his administration. The same Mr. Barnala was dismissed after three months because you had the elections of Haryana before you. You wanted to win the elections, though you would not. Keeping in view the election of Haryana you took the step to dismiss the Government of Punjab. As a result of it the people of Punjab lost their faith on you. Elections for Punjab were again declared but that too was postponed.

You are cancelling the elections only because if the elections are held in time, the Congress Party would not participate in it. But you have committed a mistake. Now you want to set it right from the point of view of your own party and bring Congress in the race of the elections. Therefore, you intend to cancel the election.

On April 21, an all party meeting was held in Chandigarh which was attended by P.C.C Chief Shri Beant Singh, Members belonging to the left parties, Members of Janata Dal, and by us. All of them decided that if had to fight election, they would do so unitedly and if they were to boycott, they would do so unitedly. All of them stated to fight elections unitedly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All would either fight the election or boycott it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): We would unitedly fight the terrorists, and would not fight ourselves.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : The motto was also to isolate the terrorists. The Meeting was held on April 21. After taking decision in the meeting they met the President, the Election Commission. The Members belonging to the Congress party also in it and all unitedly state that election should be held in Punjab after June 20. I am underlining it, because election was being held all over the country. The date for June 20 was fixed only because they were to get ade-

quate time for security arrangements. The memorandum given bears the date June 20. The other point mentioned therein was that the candidates should be provided security. These two points were made in it. Had the President and the Election Commission conceded to these two issues it was sure that all the parties would have liked to participate in the election. After the decision taken at the Chandigarh meeting, this next meeting was held with the President and the Election Commission. As a result of this meeting the date for election in Punjab was fixed as June 22 by the Election Commission at instance of the delegation in which Congress was also represented. After it the situation took a turn. The Congress High Command decided not to participate in the election. Thus, they betra the decision the meeting which was attended by the President of the P.C.C. and thus boycott the elections not withstanding the fact that it was decided that in the event of boycotting the election they would do so collectively, therefore, I want to say that they gave importance to their party. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the decision for holding election on June 22 was taken unanimously by the entire delegation, the History of which is before you and on the 20th when the election.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 44 minutes for your party, and there are 3 members to speak.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I will take some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am ready, if others do not object.....

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I would speak in brief. You are liberal in giving time.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three and half hours have been fixed for this debate, out of which 44 minutes have been allotted to your party.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : My submission is that by postponing the election, the Congress Party took care of its own

interest, but it did not estimate the extent of loss it caused to Punjab. After the decision of the Government the Punjab Governor Shri Malhotra spoke out that he fought two wars but he never met with such a humiliation. He was betrayed, kept in the dark and was let down.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit that it seems to me that the Akalis may come under the pressure of militants and may boycott election in Punjab. If they do not fight election, this election would become meaningless. Five groups of Akalis were ready to participate in the election. It is right that Mr. Mannhad suggested regarding referendum which could be weeded out at the political level but not by making any law. All the five Akali Dals and all other parties were taking apart in that election. But a day before you postponed the election because the Congress was not participating in it. Now if the Akalis are Boycotting the election, what will be the meaning of the election? There was election fraud in Kashmir and the terrorism spread there. I feel that is the people of Punjab feel that they are being humiliated, insulted and are not being relied upon, they will react and thus we would be giving an opportunity to the militants to raise propaganda against us.

Mr Chairman, Sir, my submission is that if one is not invited to a dinner he may feel a little about it but if some body has been invited and the dinner has been served before him and he gets ready to enjoy it and then at once the dinner is removed before he enjoys it, how much he would feel about it, this is how Punjab has been treated. After the declaration for election such a dish was served and when the last date was over and when on the day of polling the dish (box) was to be enjoyed, it was removed.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not a day, after rather a day before.....

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Yes, Sir, one day before the vote that was with-

drawn from there which caused anger among them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it appears to me that by cancelling the election in Punjab today, we are taking it to its earlier position. The endeavour for bringing all in the national mainstream and the efforts made till now, will go in vain.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to State that the beginning has been dangerous because when any other party forms a Government at the Centre and it finds the probability of any other party forming a Government in a particular State it can cancel the elections due in that State by bringing a Bill in the same way. Thus, any election to be held in any State can be cancelled. It is a dangerous beginning going to take place through this Bill. I think this is going to be a sign of interrogation in the federal structure of our country. I want to say the Congress Government is playing a very dangerous game.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been mentioned in its objects and that it has been pointed out here that on account of law and order problems the elections in Punjab are going to be cancelled. As Mr. George Fernandes had rightly stated the other day in the House that one Home Minister told* ..that the law and order situation in Punjab was improving. Now you say today that elections are being cancelled there due to the law and order problem.

[English]
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AD COMPANY AFFAIRES (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, it is the convention of the House that we do not mention about the discussion held in * attached to various Ministries. So I request that the words,* be expunged from the proceedings.

* Not recorded

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Such statements have been published in several newspapers which I am referring to. On many occasions you have given such statements which have appeared in many papers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Khurana, you are pointing out it in your second thought. Your "...." words will not be recorded

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA(South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Congress has repeated it several times. Now I would like to state migrants from Kashmir are living in a very distressed condition and are disappointed like the migrants from Punjab it is very unfortunate that refugees from Punjab and Kashmir have been leading a hillish life in Delhi and in other parts of the country for the last several years. They are compelled to become refugees in their own country. No provision has been made for them in this budget. I would like to submit that the Government should declare its policy about Punjabi migrants at once. But the Govt. has neither yet declared its polity, nor it has made any provision for them in the budget also.

Sir, through you, I want to make a request that when Minister of Home Affairs or any other minister, who replies the debates should inform the House specifically as to when the Punjab election will be held which are now being cancelled. If you make such an announcement in the House, people of Punjab will feel consolation and peace in their mind. If you postpone the Punjab Election for an indefinite person, you will face hardships in restoring normalcy in Punjab for which we are trying and all our efforts, made till go in vain. Our hole functioning will go waste and it will have no value. So I would like to request the minister that while replying to the debate, he should announce straight away the exact date for the Punjab election. thanks.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairmen, Sir, it is with a feeling

of cheerlessness despondency that I also rise to speak on the Bill channelling the General Elections in Punjab and also on the Budget here today. Year after year this vital function of the State Legislative Assembly has been performed by us here and that too casually. During the last eight years, the State Legislative Assembly within whose domain this function legitimately falls has had an opportunity to discuss the Budget only twice.

The framers of the Constitution provided that a Proclamation regarding President's rule could be extended beyond a period of one year only if two specific conditions were fulfilled and those conditions were that of Emergency being there or the Election Commission's certifying about its inability to hold the elections. In the case of Punjab, the Constitution has had to be amended as many as six times to extend the notifications of October, 1983 and May, 1987. At present this outer period stands at five years without the two conditions that I have just referred to.

None of us can be proud of this inglorious development, rather an aberration in Indian democracy. Today, Punjab continues to reel under terrorists violence. It has continued to do so for the last ten years. The period of ten years is not a small period, even in the history of nations. Sitting here today, we cannot imagine the plight of Punjabis. The brave hard-working, once exuberent people, fun-loving and boisterous the eternal guardians of the nation's western border, are today broken and a fortune lot.

Enough has been spoken about the Punjab's condition in the past. All of us have termed this problem as a national problem from time to time. I think it is veritably so. Its repercussions have been felt in many parts of the country. Its adverse impact on the unity and integrity of the country is well-known. Alive to this problem, we have always expressed the desire to have a national approach to the problem. But I am sorry that we have never given a chance to ourselves to consider the problem that way, shorn of narrow political partisan considerations. Sir, over the years, both in and outside

the Parliament, we have vied with each other in apportioning blame, never pausing to introspect, deriving a sort of satisfaction of scoring a debating point over each other. Sir, hile we have been basking in this complacency, Punjab has inexorably been sliding fathoms in an ocean of chaos.

I was sorry that today the hon. Member, Mr. Khurana, who initiated the debate, though dwelt at length on the economic ills of Punjab, yet when it came to the political part, he again launched a diatribe against the Congress. I want to avoid doing the same but to set the records straight, I want to remind him that it is the Congress which has always sought others' cooperation. He referred to the Rajiv Gandhi-Longowal Accord. The then Congress President, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, signed the Accord. It was a bold historic decision. Exceptionally peaceful elections followed that because at that time Rajiv Gandhi had said that what mattered for the Congress was not a momentary or a transitional victory in one election but what mattered for the Congress was that the light of democracy keeps alive in the country.

Sir, Akali Dal came to power. We know what happened. It failed to rise to the occasion, it failed to size up to responsibilities of the Government. It was rocked by the internal dissensions and there was a vertical split. After the split, we still endeavoured to give support to Shri Barnala. Yes, we referred to his Government in the Presidential Address.

17.00 hrs.

We went all out to support the Government. But the Government lacked the political will to fight terrorism. I do not want to repeat what we have been saying in the past. But since that subject was touched, I will make a reference to it. Some ministers in the Barnala Government started courting terrorists. There was a reign of terror let loose once again in the State. A wonderful opportunity that was provided to us in the form of elections was missed. Why they have faulted is again history. The party of Shri Khurana

had been exchanging views and notes with the Government. We know as to what reasons and what internal contradictions, deficiencies and weaknesses were there in Barnala Government which led to the non-fulfilment of the Award.

The Centre, because of the failings of the Barnala Government, had to take action in the form of an unpleasant and difficult decision to promulgate the President's rule. The results that flowed from that action were again before us. All religious places including the Golden Temple at Amritsar, the *sanctum sanctorium* of the sikh faith which were defiled and desecrated by irreligious use, were freed of impious elements.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you please continue after the statement of the Home Minister. Now the Home Minister will make a statement regarding the induction of Army in aid to civil authorities in certain districts of Assam.

17.02 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Induction of Army in aid to civil authorities in certain districts of Assam

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI. S.B. CHAVAN): I wish to apprise the Hon'ble Members of the House that at the request of the Government of Assam, the Army is providing aid to civil authorities in certain districts of the State.

It may be recalled that President's Rule was imposed in the State of Assam on 27.11.1990 and the State Assembly was dissolved. After the dissolution of the ninth Lok Sabha, elections were held to the Parliament in the State of Assam as elsewhere in the country. Simultaneously, elections were also held to the State Assembly and with the constitution of the new State Assembly, a