

12.14 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE ASSASSINATION OF
SHRI HARBANS SINGH MANCHANDA
PRESIDENT, DELHI SIKH
GURDWARA PRABANDHAK
COMMITTEE**

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri P.C. SETHI):

Sir it is with a profound sense of shock that I rise to inform the House about the murderous attack on Shri Harbans Singh Manchanda, President, Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, in the late forenoon of 28.3.1984. According to information gathered so far, at about 12.15 PM on 28.3.84, Shri Harbans Singh Manchanda along with 4 other persons, was proceeding in his car along Mathura Road after visiting Guru Harkishan Public School at Purana Quila Road. When the car stopped at the traffic light at the intersection of Mathura Road, Tilak Marg and Sikandara Road, two bearded young men, wearing turban, came upto the car and fired at the occupants. Shri Harbans Singh Manchanda suffered grave injuries. Another passenger and the driver of the car also sustained bullet injuries. Shri Manchanda was immediately rushed to L.N. J.P. Hospital.

After firing into the car, the assailants ran to another car parked on the opposite side of the road and sped away. The Police Officer on security duty with Shri Manchanda, fired at the assailants and tried to chase the car but could not stop them. The description of the assailants and details of the car have been furnished to the various check points in Delhi and also the neighbouring States. A reward of Rs. 25,000/- has been announced for any clue regarding the identity of the assailants. I have to further inform the House with deep regret that in spite of the efforts of the doctors to save him, Shri Manchanda ultimately succumbed to injuries around 12.10 hours last night. The Police Officer who was deputed for security duty with Shri Manchanda, has been placed under suspension for failure to be vigilant in the performance of his duty. A case has been registered and investigation is being conducted by a Special Cell of the Crime Branch.

The Government have been deeply concerned about the activities of extremists in the capital and have taken a number of steps to check them. Apart from the general efforts in this direction, the Government

have also made special arrangements to provide adequate security to people who have been under threat from extremists. I would like to reiterate the Government's resolve to deal firmly with elements indulging in violent and extremist activities.

A grey Fiat car has been found in the Shastri Bhavan compound this morning. The car has inside it two turbans and a few empty cartridges. The car is being examined by the forensic experts.

12.18 hrs.

RECALLING ATTENTION

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we take up Calling Attention.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR (Gwalior) : Sir, before you take up the Calling Attention, I would make a request to you.

Four Hon. Members who had given the Notice for Calling Attention are not present today.

Actually the Calling Attention was fixed for Monday. But somehow or other it is being taken up today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think, Shri Asrar Ahmed is present. Let him start it. If you postpone it, then balloting and other things will have to be taken up. Therefore, let him start it. Let the Minister give his statement and other Members can put their questions afterwards.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : You can postpone it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You see there are some difficulties.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) Sir, why can't you convert it into a full discussion under Rule 193 ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is a different thing. This is the only formula I consider fit.

Now, let him start it and let the Minister make a statement.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : Sir, my request is that it should not go by default. It may be heard today, the day after or any time, but what I am interested in is that it should not go by default.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Asrar Ahmed, you can start now.