

12.10 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Sixty-second Report and Minutes

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE (Akola) : I beg to present the Sixty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Cotton Corporation of India Limited and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported functioning of office of so-called Khalistan Council in Harminder Sahib, Amritsar and reaction of Government thereto.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी (हिसार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अबिलंबनीय लोक महत्व के निम्न-लिखित विषय की श्रौर गृह मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वे इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :—

“हरमिन्दर साहिब, अमृतसर में तथाकथित खालिस्तान कौंसिल के कार्यालय के कार्यकरण के समाचार और उसके संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया।”

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : Sir, as the House is aware, the “National Council of Khalistan” and “Dal Khalsa” were declared as unlawful associations and banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 on the 1st May 1982 for indulging in secessionist activities. Government of Punjab, thereafter took steps to deal with their activists, 162 activists have been arrested in 59 cases

registered against them up to 31st March, 1983. According to Government of Punjab, Balbir Singh Sandhu, self styled Secretary General of National Council of Khalistan and a proclaimed offender is reported to be living at Guru Nanak Niwas in the Golden Temple, Amritsar. It is alleged that the room occupied by him is also being used as temporary headquarter of the so-called Secretary General of National Council of Khalistan. This fact is under verification, which has been rendered difficult as investigating agencies are not being permitted to enter Guru Nanak Niwas. Balbir Singh Sandhu is wanted in five cases and had been declared a proclaimed offender.

The Government have been receiving information of some Dal Khalsa activists taking shelter in Guru Nanak Niwas, Amritsar. It is reported that the State Authorities have been approaching the SGPC to hand over such persons to them but in vain.

In the meetings held with the leaders of Shiromani Akali Dal, a request was made to them that Gurdwaras should not be used as sanctuary for those indulging in illegal activities. It is unfortunate that SGPC and Shiromani Akali Dal leadership have not denounced such activities.

As I have stated in this House earlier, the entry of police in places of worship is not prohibited by law, but in deference to religious sentiments, the Government has exercised restraint. Government hopes and trusts that SGPC and Shiromani Akali Dal will realise their national responsibility and extend their cooperation and take steps to surrender to the police or court the proclaimed offender Balbir Singh Sandhu. I assure the House that the Government is keeping a close watch on Dal Khalsa activists and all steps are being taken to preserve the unity and integrity of the country.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी (हिसार) : अध्यक्ष जी, यह बहुत ही नाजुक सवाल है। इसको पर मंत्री जी ने इस आसानी से अपने ऊपर से टाल दिया है जैसे किसी दूसरे का सवाल हो और इससे सुलटना नहीं पड़ेगा। मैं इस सवाल को