

been a number of complaints at frequent intervals about the harassment of women passengers. We have instructed the DTC to see that these are removed. But as I explained, the social environment in Bombay is quite different from that of Delhi. And I do not think that introducing 'all women services' is the only solution to this problem in Delhi. I think there is something basically wrong with the designs of the Delhi buses itself. We are looking at this. We are trying to see how best we can ensure that special consideration can be shown to passengers like women, old, infirm and so on. At the moment, there are a number of passengers in Delhi unfortunately who manage to get away without paying the fare. All those problems have come up and we are looking into them.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: I am one of the Members who travel by public buses in Delhi pretty often. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he was aware that there as an half-an-hour discussion on my question that there should be boards clearly displaying the number of DTC buses; it was agreed upon and some boards were put up. But now it is very difficult to read the boards i.e. the destination of the buses. Either they are written in chalk or in absolutely darkness. So people have no way of getting into the proper buses. Will the Minister look into it?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: I certainly shall look into it and rectify it.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is shocking and casual. He said that 500 buses were to be added in 1989-90 but his was not done. 507 buses had to be added in 1990-91 but there are no funds for it. The number of buses in Delhi has decreased but the hon. Minister expresses his inability to do anything in this matter. Why then is he occupying a Ministerial berth? The Minister is responsible for the functioning of D.T.C. and he is expressing helplessness. Why is the number of buses in Delhi not increased. If,

the number of cars can increase, why not the number of buses? Are there any plans in this direction?... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: As I have explained earlier, within the existing constraints of resources, there might have been slow progress in the recent procurement buses in New Delhi and it is our endeavour to improve and our Ministry has taken steps and inter-Ministerial discussions are going on...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: How long?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: As early as possible.

Initiatives Taken in Punjab to Eliminate Terrorism

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*44. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:
SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new steps have been initiated in Punjab in recent weeks to eliminate terrorism and bring about normalcy in the State:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved so far; and

(c) when Government propose to hold elections in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The situation in Punjab is constantly under review and new steps/initiatives as considered necessary are taken from time to time. Accordingly in May 1990, a number of

steps on law and order, border management and restructuring of the civil administration and development programmes in the border districts were initiated. More recently, a multi-pronged action plan has been formulated to meet the challenge of terrorism. This includes *inter alia* participation by representatives of all active, national and regional political parties in developmental conferences at the District, Sub-Divisional and Block levels along with district level officers. Conferences of Sarpanches, and members of interest groups like teachers/layers, ex-servicemen are also proposed in which Government functionaries of different departments would be present to hear and solve the problems at the functional level. Holding of sports and cultural activities, games and functions right from the village to the district level would be also encouraged. Special measures are also being taken to ensure employment of youth from the disturbed areas.

The present term of President's Rule in the State would expire on November 10, 1990, and in the normal course elections would need to be held before that date. It is hoped that the various political parties and all sections of the people will come forward to help create an atmosphere congenial to the holding of free and fair elections in the State.

[English]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: It is mentioned in the reply in the third line that in May, 1990, they have taken some steps and further it is mentioned that a multi-pronged action plan has been formulated. But, I find that it is only a proposal. I want to know when you are going to start it. I would also like to know if issues like land reforms, inter-state water disputes and transfer of Chandigarh and Punjab speaking areas to Punjab are also going to be considered.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, I have mentioned that a multi-pronged action plan has been formulated. Till now the

Government has been depending on the police action plan. I don't think we can resolve the Punjab problem through police action. So we have ourselves formulated an action plan. For this purpose we have proposed to hold a conference of Sarpanches of four districts and a calendar has been drawn for every district. This calendar indicates the dates and blocks about which conferences will be held to enable local people to express their views before presiding officials. The various Secretaries of the State Government have been given the responsibility of one district each. Senior district officials have been given the responsibility of one district each. Senior district officials have been given the responsibility of sub-divisions and blocks. A Commissioner has been appointed for the 3-4 disturbed districts like Amritsar and Ferozepur. The Development Secretaries have been given the powers to take decision pertaining to various departments. We believe that the Punjab problem will be solved through mass movement. People who are caught between police action and terrorism must be motivated to take a stand against terrorism. For the last 2-3 years the district administration has become ineffective. In this process an official gets one month's work after at least four months. The officer of the group got an opportunity to participate. The workers of the Congress party have said that no precautionary measure has been directed to depute Development Officers to provide information to any political party which wants to participate in the conference. The work has started and monitoring is being done every fifteen days. It is the Government's policy to set up democratic centres over there so that some solution is found.

[English]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Sir, in the Daily reading of the Indian Express, Messiah Arun Shourie has recently written that during the last six months there have been only 1,600 killings in Punjab. May I know what does the Government feel about it? Does it stand by what Mr. Arun Shourie has written or does it denounce that?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, am not aware of what Mr. Shourie has written but I consider the Bible a holy book. As a result of a build up of arms across the border, killings of civilians by terrorists have increased but what is even more sad is that the policy and para-military forces have also become targets of terrorist. I am not denying all this but this work is being done so that the pace of development in Punjab does not slow down. The police and para-military forces are doing their best to combat the situation. The performance of Punjab police, in particular is commendable considering the tremendous pressure they have to work under.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Ever since coming into power this Government has proposed to take both political and administrative steps. The hon. Minister's speech mentions some administrative steps, I am trying to highlight the political aspect because that is the main issue. People should be made to understand that we will not make any compromise with communalism. People may belong to any community and Sikhs in particular have always been in the fore front. As Indian citizens they have every right in this country. They should be made to understand that such incidents should not happen. What political initiative is being taken by the Government to ensure that no compromise is made with communalism? Previously the Government had made such a compromise. A political initiative should be taken to encourage secular elements to get together and resolve the Punjab crisis. In this context would like to touch upon administrative matter in which the new Governor of Punjab documented Operation Blue star. What does this mean? Was Operation Blue star a mistake?... (Interruptions) As far as the Governor's speech is concerned, the hon. Prime Minister or the Home Minister could have explained Central Government's stand. If he has been asked to explain matters, then the meaning of the speech should also be clarified. This is not an open war but a game of hit and run. Therefore, the intelligence machinery should be strengthened.

would like to know whether the Government is paying any attention to check killings of innocent people, save them from destruction and ensure punishment to the guilty persons. What is happening these days? Bombs are exploded in which several people are killed. By the time police force reaches the spot, guilty persons run away from the scene. Innocent people become victims of such incidents. Guilty persons are hardly apprehended. Free and fair elections should be ensured. With this, I conclude.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far Blue Star incident is concerned, I would like to submit this much only that if it is found that with the occurrence of any such incident, the feeling of any particular community is hurt, it is the bounden duty of the Government to check recurrence of such incidents. If the feeling of the Sikh Community had been hurt from the Blue Star incident, the then Government should have thought of it. In regard to the functioning of the Intelligence Bureau, I would like to submit that control rooms have been set up in the Amritsar and para-military forces, Punjab Police Force and the Intelligence Bureau are working in coordination with each other. Due to their concerted efforts, some terrorists were apprehended and some were killed in cross-firings lasted for 30 hours. It shows that there is no administrative lacuna in Punjab. All the agencies have been making concerned efforts. Assistance of political and social workers is also being taken so that joint efforts could be made to find a solution to the problem.

[English]

SHRI KAMAL CHOUDHARY: Sir, many people are killed everyday. I am from Punjab and I should be permitted to put question.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: In Punjab, the big leaders, land-lords and a few other people possess a lot of land ranging from 200 acres to 1200 acres each in excess of land Ceiling Act. Thus a mockery of the

said Act has been made in Punjab. It is also one of the causes of conversion in the State. It has also been the main cause of many other problems facing the State. Another startling factor of the problem is this that most of the influential Ministers or ex-Chief Minister possess land in excess of the ceiling limit but the Central Government has not acquired it, I would like to know whether the Government has guts enough to acquire the land in excess of Land Ceiling Act and distribute it among the poor people.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has rightly said that land is the main cause of tension prevailing in the society. The Government has taken a decision to implement the Land Ceiling Act throughout the country.

[English]

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is in his knowledge that when the present Punjab Governor took over, he made a statement that the elections in Punjab would be held before 10th November 1990? This has led to increase in hostilities, more murders followed by the murder of Commerce & Finance Minister, Sardar Balwant Singh. On his cremation, the hon. Governor made a statement that elections would not be held in Punjab unless peace prevailed in Punjab. The very next day, the External Affairs Minister of the Union Government made a statement at the same place that elections in Punjab would positively be held before 10th November 1990. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has done anything to stop this kind of confusion? What is the Government stand on this?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member might be aware that when a Constitution amendment Bill in respect of continuation of President Rule in Punjab was moved in the House, leaders of all the political parties including his party were of the opinion that the elections should be held in Punjab. That is why six months' time was sought so that atmosphere conducive to peace could be created there... (*Interruptions*) ...within six months, it has to be decided whether elections should be held in Punjab or not. Therefore, I seek

the cooperation of the Members of all the political parties to create cordial atmosphere in which the administration and the people of the State can meet this challenge unitedly. We have to seek the assistance and co-operation of all the political parties. Pakistan was making all out efforts to attack on us. Terrorists activities increased in the State due to Pakistan. So you should realise the gravity of the situation.

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I seek your protection in delivering my maiden speech.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the Question Hour, you can only put question during this time.

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Just now Members from the Congress benches asked questions regarding operation blue star, terrorists and some other related issues. In this connection, I would like to know who is empowered to brand a particular person as terrorist? Is the Police which have got arbitrary powers in the matter? Is there any law under which a person is declared terrorist? I was also branded as terrorist who is now standing before you. I would like to submit that segregative approach was adopted in the matter and an amount of Rs. 3.75 crore was wasted in fabricating false cases against some persons. After spending this huge amount, cases were later on withdrawn. I appealed to the Court that cases should not be withdrawn, rather trials should continue to the logical end so that people could know as to how terrorists are being created in the country and who are responsible for creating terrorists in the country. Before I was arrested by the police, not even a single case was made against me but after my arrest, false cases were made against me. I would like to know why false cases were made against me? What is the definition of terrorism?

MR. SPEAKER: I will give time to you later on. Now you take your seat. Question Hour over. (*Interruptions*)

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: I would like to take entire House into confidence.... (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I shall give you time later.