

[Shri Y. B. Chavan]

attack was mounted with a large force of infantry and tanks and accompanied by air cover. Naturally, we have had to repel all these attacks and our armed forces have been giving an exceedingly good account of themselves, notwithstanding the difficulties which they had to face.

We have, as I informed Hon'ble members earlier, had to carefully watch the developing situation and have had to take an overall view of the defence of the country.

On the afternoon of 5th September Pakistani aircraft intruded across the International boundary at Wagan near Amritsar and fired rockets at an Air Force Unit. Anti-aircraft action drove them away. This violation was reported but there were further violations over the same border by the Pakistan Air Force and it was quite apparent that Pakistan's next move was to attack Punjab across the International border. The indication that this was going to happen was building up over some time. In order to forestall the opening of another front by Pakistan, our troops in the Punjab moved across the border in Lahore Sector for the protection of the Indian border.

In the Kashmir Sector in Chhamb, violating the International border, Pakistan came across with a large number of Patton and Sherman tanks, supported by both heavy and medium Artillery. We repulsed these attacks and have taken positions in the vicinity of Jaurian where we have held the enemy. The position is well and strongly held and the strategic importance of it is fully realized. I would like to say that in the last 24 hours we have destroyed three more Pakistani Sherman tanks. Fighting is still going on and two positions into which the enemy had infiltrated have been cleared of the enemy.

In the Valley and along the Cease Fire Line, within the last 24 hours the

situation has been generally quiet. I would like to bring to the notice of Hon'ble Members action taken two days ago at North of Tithwal where our troops occupied three Pakistani positions which were overlooking us and covering the road to the Northern Sector intensively used by the infiltrators.

Our aircraft carried out a number of sorties over West Pakistan this morning and attacked a number of military installations including a goods train carrying military stores and inflicted considerable damage. All our aircraft returned safely.

We have taken the decision to effectively repel Pakistani aggression in the full knowledge that the whole nation, irrespective of party alignments, is one with the Government in this matter. The Prime Minister has received the fullest assurances from all quarters in this regard. I am sure Hon'ble Members and the country will show appreciation of the great gallantry with which our Army has been fighting against odds in our State of Jammu and Kashmir, in extremely difficult terrain as in the Kargil and Hari Pir areas. The House is undoubtedly also proud of the performance of our boys in the Air Force who have destroyed several Pakistani Sabre jets. I have no doubt now that our Armed Forces will give a worthy account of themselves.

12.16 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. PUNJABI SUBA

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): Sir, it is natural for the House to be concerned about the recent developments arising from Sant Fateh Singh's intention to fast from September 10 to achieve Punjab Suba and to immolate himself on September 25, if it was not conceded by then and also from Master Tara Singh's repeated demand for an "independent and self-determined status within the Indian Union".

I have already laid on the Table of the House the record note of Prime Minister's talks with Sant Fateh Singh. As has been made clear by the Prime Minister both during his talks with Sant Fateh Singh and in his speech in Rajya Sabha on August 24, no efforts would be spared by Government to remove the sense of grievance from the mind of Sant Fateh Singh in regard to the language question and the functioning of regional committee. The Prime Minister had also assured Sant Fateh Singh that the question regarding the regional formula, sac-rilege cases, amendment of the Gurudwara Act and other points would be looked into and that if there was any shortcoming or deficiency, he would see to it that things were put right. The Government is also prepared to associate Sant Fateh Singh's representative with an inquiry that may be instituted or with any other step that may be taken to remove his complaints.

It may be recalled that in recent years, several steps have been taken to arrive at an amicable arrangement for meeting the needs of the Punjabi speaking region and the Hindi speaking region of the Punjab State. Controversy over the reorganisation of the Punjab State was at rest in 1956, when the Government of India evolved the Regional Committee scheme in consultation with the Akalis. The demand for a Punjabi speaking State was, however, taken up again and on this issue Sant Fateh Singh entered upon an indefinite fast on the 18th December, 1960. The late Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, made a statement on the 8th January, 1961, in the course of which he declared, "The Punjab itself is, broadly speaking a Punjabi Suba as it is with Punjabi as the dominant language there.

(ਜੇ ਚਾਹੇਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਸਿਰਫ਼ੀ : ਕੇਵਲ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਖੇਤਰ ਦੇ ਹੀ ਸਾਰੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਹੋਣ ?) It is true that some parts of the Punjab have Hindi; but essentially Punjabi is

the dominant language and it should be encouraged in every way."

Sant Fateh Singh gave up his fast on receiving the following telegram from Master Tara Singh:

"Am satisfied with today's speech of the Prime Minister at Sardarnagar. Request you to break your fast. It fulfils the requirements of your vow."

The agitation was then withdrawn.

The demand for a Punjabi Suba has now been revived by Sant Fateh Singh. It seems to stem mainly from a sense of dissatisfaction with the manner in which the previous undertakings have been implemented. The Prime Minister's assurance that effective steps will be taken for the redress of grievances and the full implementation of arrangements agreed upon earlier should meet the needs of the situation. Sant Fateh Singh, however, persists in the demand for the creation of the Punjabi Suba. I may submit that recourse to fasts and counterfasts to exert pressure on the Government to accept or reject a demand should be avoided; otherwise it will not be possible for the Government to carry on normal administration and discharge its responsibilities to the people. A considerable element of the population in the Punjab insists that a separate State should be formed for the Punjabi speaking area on the linguistic basis. There is also a considerable section which is strongly opposed to the adoption of such a course. Strong sentiments of any section of the people have, however, to be given consideration.

The whole question can be examined afresh with an open mind. Government would be prepared to have further talks on the subject. We may hope that a cooperative solution will be discovered based on

(Shri Nanda)

goodwill and a reasoned approach. The final test of the good of the various sections in conformity with the national interest should prevail. In these discussions, all unresolved matters can be taken up. For this, an atmosphere of goodwill and amity should be created.

I would urge that the present is not the time for doing anything which may deflect the energy of the Government and the people from the task of facing the very serious threat to our security from across our borders. As the House is aware, our security forces are engaged in dealing with the armed infiltrators from Pakistan and attacks by Pakistani armed forces and we are facing a situation with very serious possibilities. Important developments are taking place now. I hope, the House will join me in an appeal to Sant Fateh Singh to give up the proposed action and to join in the mighty effort the country is putting forth for thwarting Pakistan's aggression and the preservation of the integrity and independence of India.

It is not necessary for me at all to say much about the stand of Master Tara Singh. No demand which impinges in any manner on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country can possibly be given any consideration. I am confident that all the people of India, and among them Sikhs have a notable and honoured place, will wholeheartedly endorse Government's views on this vital matter.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh (Bulandshahr): From the statement just made by the hon. Home Minister, would I be correct in understanding that the Government of India is not rejecting consideration of this entire question of a Punjabi Suba on the basis of the linguistic principle?

Shri Nanda: It is clear from what I have already said that we are prepared to discuss and consider this ques-

tion in all its aspects. It is obvious, therefore, that we are not ruling out any arrangement or proposal on the ground of any objection to the principle of adopting the linguistic basis in dealing with this question, but I may add that several aspects and implications of various proposals which are made in this connection will, however, have to be studied and discussed.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कौना): क्या मैं सरकार से यह जान सकता हूँ कि यह बातचीत के लिए दरबाजा कब तक खला रखा जायगा और यह मसला कब तक हल हो जायेगा ?

Shri Nanda: I am not in a position to specify the period. The process can start immediately, subject, of course, to the exigencies of the national emergency created by Pakistan aggression in Kashmir. It will be our effort to settle the question as quickly as possible.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): May I know if the Government, as stated in the statement, will open the door for negotiation not only with those who make a demand for the Punjabi Suba, but also for those, as stated in the statement, who are strongly opposed to this kind of thing? May I know, what kind of *modus operandi* the Government is going to evolve so that both the sides of the question can be considered, as the hon. Minister said, in a dispassionate, reasonable and objective way?

Shri Nanda: It is going to be, as I said, a co-operative solution. Therefore, every one who is concerned will certainly have an opportunity to participate in the process.

श्री प्रहलादबीर शास्त्री (बिठौर): हिन्दू और सिख दोनों एक वक्त्र की दो बाजाएँ हैं, दोनों के पारिवारिक और

सामाजिक राष्ट्रिय आपस में इनके घनिष्ठ हैं जिन शरीर में खवा और मांस का संबंध रहता है और दोनों को ही संत जी के इस असामायिक भ्रनशन से और मास्टर तारासिंह की धमकी से पंजाब में बड़ा कण्ट है मगर जैसा श्री गृह मंत्री जी ने संत जी से संकटकालीन परिस्थिति में अपना भ्रनशन त्यागने की अपील की है तो क्या साथ ही साथ वह यह भी प्राश्वासन इस सदन के द्वारा पंजाब के उन प्रतिनिधियों को या उन लोगों को दे सकेंगे कि देश में संकटकालीन स्थिति समाप्त होने पर, वातावरण शांत होने पर दोनों ओर के प्रतिनिधियों को बुलाकर बात करेंगे और समस्या का कोई समाधान बूँटें।

Shri Nanda: I am thankful to the hon. Member. I would welcome a meeting with the representatives of Sant Fateh Singh to be able to explain to them the value and significance of what has been stated. I am sure that all that is known about the present situation and what has been stated here, these should enable Sant Fateh Singh to give up his intention to go on a fast.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछराय (देवास) : इस समय हमारे देश में काफी संकट है ऐसी परिस्थिति में मैं इस संबंध में कुछ नहीं पूछना चाहता।

श्री गुचराम (भटिंडा) : सिकखों के साथ घन्याय करने से देश के बाहुबल की बहुत हानि होती है और यह देश विद्रोह है इसलिए जो पंजाब का वर्तमान रूप है उस के पंजाबी क्षेत्र को पंजाबी सूबा क्यों नहीं घोषित कर सकते और ऐसा करने में सरकार को क्या रुकावट है ?

श्री नरसिंह : मैंने जो कुछ कहना था वह मैं कह चुका हूँ।

Shri Kapur Singh rose—

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow; if I allow him now and make a departure, it will open up the floodgates.

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): Would it be proper to stick to the formalities of procedure on a grave occasion like this? If I am permitted to say a few words, I am sure the matter which is before the House will be better understood than it would otherwise be.

Mr. Speaker: Some other opportunity might be taken. I will be putting myself in a very awkward position.

Shri Kapur Singh: It will be unfortunate if you stick to the letter of the procedure and do not go into the spirit of the procedure.

Mr. Speaker: If I start allowing one Member, I would open the floodgate.

Shri Kapur Singh: It is a matter of vital concern to those whom I represent here.

Mr. Speaker: If he just finds another proper recourse or some other method I will certainly try to help him.

Shri Kapur Singh: This is the proper psychological moment.

Mr. Speaker: If the House wants me to make a departure....

Some hon. Members: No.

Shri Nanda: I shall invite him to meet me immediately after this and I shall have a talk with him.

Shri Kapur Singh: If in this august House I am not allowed to say even a few humble words to the representatives of 440 million people of India, I have nothing more to say; that is enough for my case.

श्री बूटा सिंह (मोगा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने एक बात निवेदन करनी थी ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : चूंकि आपका नाम नहीं था इसलिए मैं आपको इजाजत नहीं दे सकता हूँ ।

श्री बूटा सिंह : जिस प्रश्न के ऊपर चुनाव लड़कर हम लोग यहां पार्लियामेंट में आये हैं उस पंजाबी सूबे की चर्चा हम इन हाउस के अन्दर न करें यह कैसे हो सकता है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप यह भी देखें कि जहां आप महसूस करते हैं वहां ही और लोग भी महसूस करते हैं और मैं भी करता हूँ लेकिन जो एक यहां कार्यवाही चलाने का हमने ज़मूत व कायदा बना रखा है उस को कायम रखने में मैं आप की मदद चाहता हूँ ।

श्री बूटा सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह सोच रहा था कि शायद होम मिनिस्टर साहब के स्टेटमेंट से कोई हल निकलना है या ग्विनि में कुछ सुधार होने वाला है अगर बड़े अफ़ोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि इन से न तो कोई हल निकलता है न वर्तमान स्थिति में कोई सुधार हो सकता है । केवल चार दिन बाकी रह गये हैं जबकि संत जो आमरण बात शुरू करने वाले हैं और एक मनेबा अगर वत शुरू हो गया तो वह टूट नहीं सकता है इसलिए इस गम्भीर स्थिति को देखते हुए मैं गवर्नरेंट से दरखास्त करता हूँ कि वह पंजाबी सूबे की घोषणा कर दे ।

Shri Kapur Singh: I shall say in just half a dozen sentences, what I want to say.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): We may have a discussion this evening.

Mr. Speaker: This evening? I cannot say. If some notice is there it

can be considered. That is what I am telling him again and again.

श्री बूटा सिंह : परिस्थिति बड़ी गम्भीर है केवल चार दिन रह गये हैं वत शुरू होने में । अदिलम्ब इस पर दिचार होना चाहिए ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको नोटिस भेजना चाहिए ।

श्री बूटा सिंह : एक बात....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं अब बिल्कुल इजाजत नहीं दे सकता और अब आप बैठ जायें । मेरा मना करते रहने के बावजूद भी आप को जो कुछ कहना था आपने उरत कह लिया है ।

12.30 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE THIRTY-NINTH REPORT

The Minister of Communications and Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Thirty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd September, 1965."

Mr. Speaker: I shall now put the motion to the vote of the House.

12.30½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: PUNJABI SUBA— contd.

Shri Ranga: Sir, I would like to make a suggestion. In the light of the statement made by the hon. Home Minister and the strong feelings expressed by some of the hon. Members, I would like to suggest that the Government themselves would take the earliest possible opportunity of