

[English]

18.34 hrs

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARANGALAM : I am sorry I never said that - And this is rather unfortunate.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : That is why I said, "May not be in the same words."

[Translation]

When they knew that six months period would be completed on November 11, why didn't they inform the House about it yesterday itself?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khurana, I can understand. Shri Kumaramangalam, you please take your seat. I understand your anger and you have expressed it very forcefully. Now, let us go ahead with the business.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Tomorrow.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Tomorrow, Sir,

MR. SPEAKER : Now, this is not correct. I have said that if the Members agree we will sit tomorrow and work. But I was told that the Members want to work today only. And that is why I have not done that.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Nobody has said it.

MR. SPEAKER : it was I who suggested that if it is necessary we will work tomorrow. I was sticking to it.

At the same time, I was feeling that supposing we had decision to work only up to the 17th, and if the House is extended up to the 18th and the Members said that they were not informed, in advance, that would also be incorrect. And that is why, I was told that Members are ready to work today. We did that. Please cooperate now. Let us not argue like this.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE .
CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATION
BY PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE
STATE OF PUNJAB

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : I beg to move the
Resolution :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 11th May, 1987 in respect of Punjab, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 11th November, 1991."

As the House is aware, President's Rule was promulgated in the State of Punjab on 11th May, 1987 on the recommendation of the Governor. The Legislative Assembly of the State which was initially kept under suspended animation was dissolved on 6th March, 1988. The Proclamation issued by the President under article 356 (1) of the Constitution was approved by the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 1987.

As the law and order situation in the State continued to be disturbed, President's Rule in Punjab has been further extended from time to time with the approval of both Houses of Parliament. The present term of President's Rule is due to expire on 10th November, 1991.

The issue of holding elections in Punjab was considered in April 1991 and it was decided that elections to the Legislative Assembly of Punjab be held along with the Lok Sabha polls. Accordingly, the Election Commission of India was requested to hold elections in Punjab. Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Punjab were scheduled to be held on 22nd June 1991 along with Parliamentary elections. However, the Election Commission of India taking into account

[Sh. S.B. Chavan]

all relevant facts was satisfied that it was not possible to conduct free and fair poll on 22nd June, 1991 on account of prevailing circumstances in the State of Punjab. Therefore, the Commission announced that the elections in Punjab would be held on 25th September, 1991 instead of 22.6.1991. The Election Notification regarding elections in Punjab has since been cancelled.

The law and order situation in Punjab continues to cause anxiety. In November, 1991 it had reached its nadir with 364 persons including 67 policemen killed by the terrorists. Thereafter, there was some improvement though as ever, there were fluctuations from month to month. In February, 1991, it reached its lowest point this year with 169 persons, including 44 policemen killed. In March, 1991, with talk of elections in the air, the terrorists intensified their effort to create more unsettled conditions in Punjab. The level of violence has been kept up since then. During the current year till 31st August, 1991, 1799 persons including 333 policemen have been killed.

The terrorists are also shifting their areas of operations as a result of the steps taken to secure the border against infiltration and intensified anti-terrorist operations in the border districts. The districts of Amritsar, Ferozepur and Gurdaspur were earlier affected. Extremist violence have now spread to Doaba and Malwa regions also.

The Punjab administration's response to the situation in Punjab has been that as against 1321 terrorists killed and 1759 arrested during the year 1990, 1433 terrorists have been killed and 1485 have been arrested during the current year upto 31st August, 1991. A counter propaganda drive was launched and people's support was enlisted in exposing the activities of terrorists and their sympathisers.

A new Governor has just taken over in Punjab and he has given his assessment of the situation. He has foreseen certain seri-

ous, almost insuperable difficulties in organising elections shortly in view of the prevailing conditions.

The Governor has stated that the law and order situation in Punjab continues to be difficult and the level of violence high. The number of killings by the terrorists is also at a high level. The security forces, have in the last month, been effectively meeting the challenge posed by top terrorists. However the fact remains, in this phase of offensive attrition and high level of violence, a very special and sustained effort is required to create such confidence in the minds of the people as would enable them to come out and cast their voters fearlessly.

The Governor has expressed the view that for holding elections in Punjab, appropriate atmosphere will be necessary which should be reasonably free from coercion and terror. It will be necessary to build up a tempo of activities which may restore the confidence of the people. While coordinated action on many fronts will be necessary the central object is to have sufficient forces so that terrorist organisations may be effectively checkmated.

In view of the circumstances, the Governor has recommended extension of President's Rule in Punjab for a period of six months beyond 10th November, 1991.

Keeping in view the situation prevailing in the State and taking all the relevant factors into consideration, it is proposed that President's Rule in Punjab may be continued for a further period of six months with effect from 11.11.1991.

In view of this position, I solicit the approval of this august House to the Resolution moved by me.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 11th May, 1987, in respect of Punjab, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a

further period of six months with effect from the 11th November, 1991."

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has made a very important statement. We will have to seriously ponder over it. Right now, we haven't got the copies of the statement is itself and therefore I would like to make a special submission before you that, it is correct that earlier it was desired that this issue would be discussed today itself, but now it is being felt that the hon. Members should get more time and the House should have a sitting tomorrow also so that the hon. Members can think over it and discuss both this matter and the international situation. I hope that the treasury benches would have no objection to it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of us in the opposition are of the opinion that this important issue should not be taken lightly and it should be given a serious thought. The international situation should also be taken up seriously. Therefore, please adjourn the House for today. Let the House sit tomorrow also and discuss these matters.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) : Right now, we don't even have a copy of the statement.

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : Sir, the House can be extended for tomorrow and we can discuss Punjab. If we disperse without having a discussion on international situation, it will be a very bad commentary on our performance. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : In deference to your wishes and in order to arrive at some conclusion with a consensus,

the House has heard what the Minister has moved. The Supplementary List of Business showing that he will move his Resolution is being circulated just now. We have co-operated with the Government. Let the Treasury Benches co-operate with us. Let us sit tomorrow and discuss both the things. But, he has already started moving his motion.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : I could not have introduced this Resolution before the Bill on cancellation of the elections in Punjab was assented to by the President.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : The statement of the hon. Minister must be circulated tonight, not tomorrow.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : I want two promises from you. Firstly, there will not be any Zero Hour tomorrow. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : I do not raise it here.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We will cooperate with you. But, you must not agree to the Zero Hour. You must not encourage people in the name of back-benchers and all that.

(*Interruptions*)

Secondly, I would like to have an assurance from you that we will not sit day after tomorrow.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, I take strong objection to what Shri Indrajit Gupta mentioned here that the Speaker has been giving opportunities to backbenchers during Zero Hour. Only today and yesterday, the Speaker was very liberal to the backbenchers. They must also have some opportunity to express their views.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will use my discretion.

SHRI E. AHAMED: I did not mean anything against Shri Indrajit Gupta. I only mentioned that Members have got some opportunities.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank you and Mr., Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am not taking any offence at what you have been saying. You should not do it tomorrow. He should not try to turn against me by distorting it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I understand the compliment and I understand the sympathy shown to me.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir there is a saying that the Government considers every minute, but after listening to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I feel that the opposition considers thrice, thrice, every minute.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They are cooperating splendidly. I am a witness to the fact that they are cooperating splendidly.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only one thing. I do not know whether Shri Madhavsinh Solanki would be here tomorrow because he is going abroad. I had said that we are not working tomorrow and he can go abroad. With your permission, I will allow him to go abroad and his colleague may reply to the Debate. Please do not take offence to this fact.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We have cancelled our engagements tomorrow and we are here.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Sir, I can understand the preoccupation of the Minister for External Affairs and if he has got any commitments requiring his travel on the 18th of...

MR. SPEAKER: We will find out from him.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the submission I am making is not that I have any personal disrespect or indeed any disregard for the great competence of the Minister of State for External Affairs. But the point is that if on as important a discussion as the Motion on International Situation, the Minister himself is not here, then I do not think the discussion will be worth taking place.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Solanki....

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, if the Minister is going, the Prime Minister can be there.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Sir, when we will be discussing the international situation tomorrow and if the Minister is away in another country, what that country will think about the Minister, I do not understand.

MR. SPEAKER: Not like that, Mr. Choudhury.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): Sir, I am here and my flight is by late hours. I can sit here up to twelve o'clock in the night

If you want to take up today..(*Interruptions*).
My colleague, Mr. Faleiro, who has pre-
sented the Motion, is also here and I am also
here. But I have to go tonight.

18.46 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER RE.
SITTING OF LOK SABHA

MR. SPEAKER: Madhavsinhji, one
minute. In all fairness to the Minister, he was
saying that you should go around and all
those things. Well, I took courage and said
that we would be finishing the business
today and if you have to go, you may please
go.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: In difference to the
views expressed by hon. Members, we ad-
journ the House today to meet tomorrow at
11 o'clock and to start the business exactly
at 11 o'clock.

18.47 hrs.

We all understand that he has his able
colleague over here and he has to meet
something important outside the country
also. I hope you will not take it amiss and we
will allow him to go.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the clock on Wednesday. The 18th Sep-
tember. 1991/Bhadra 27, 1913(Saka).