

[Sh. Manmohan Singh]

between the 4th July, 1991 and 18th July, 1991. These two transactions put together enabled us to raise about \$600 million and help tide over the serious liquidity problem we were facing.

Hon'ble Members are aware that our Government has taken a number of steps to tackle the crisis, restore confidence and put the economy back on a path of sustainable growth. These measures included macro economic stabilisation in the short run through exchange rate adjustment, restoration of fiscal discipline and tight monetary policy, together with structural reforms in trade policy and industrial policy. I had concluded my statement of 18th July 1991 with the following words:

'The export of gold was a painful necessity. However, I am confident that the various measures we have now taken will, over a period of time, lead to a significant improvement of our balance of payments. It will be my sincere effort to work to bring back to India as early as possible the gold we have sent abroad.'

Our Government under the leadership of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao is happy to announce that we have redeemed our pledge made to the country through the Parliament. All the loans taken through pledging the RBI gold of 47 tonnes stand repaid and the gold now has become unencumbered. Similarly, it has been decided to exercise the repurchase option in respect of 20 tonnes of confiscated Government gold which was sold by the State Bank of India with the repurchase option. This gold would be restored on the due dates of repurchase commencing November 25th and the ending December 4th, 1991. It is our intention to transfer this gold to the RBI and thus add to our official gold reserves.

The Government is firmly committed to restoring viability in our external payments position and is taking action on several fronts in pursuit of this objective.

15.09 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (PUNJAB) 1991-92—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will continue with the Punjab Budget. Shri Kodikkunil Suresh.

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, I rise to support the Budget for Punjab. In the situation prevailing in that State, there is no other alternative but to discuss their Budget here and pass it.

I also support the decision of the Government to hold elections in Punjab as I firmly believe that the situation in Punjab can be normalised when the representatives of the people get a chance to deal with the problem. I hope the elections will be held in Punjab as per schedule.

15.10 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

It is not for the first time that Parliament is discussing the Punjab Budget. The Punjab problem has gone on for far too long. A large number of innocent people have lost their lives and lakhs of rupees worth of property has been damaged. I cannot say whether terrorism has increased or not. Some people think that Punjab has gone out of our hands. I do not agree with that assessment. There are a few features in the Punjab situation which reassure us. The most important feature is the perfect amity between the Sikhs and the Hindus in Punjab.

A lot of efforts have been made to create communal violence and divide the Hindus and the Sikhs. But the patriotic Hindus and Sikhs live there like brothers. Even after about a decade of terrorism, it is confined to one or two districts. It has not spread to any other districts in the State. Having failed to divide the Hindus and Sikhs the terrorists and their masters have now turned their

attention to other States like Uttar Pradesh, hoping that by creating large scale violence in the neighbouring States their basic purpose of creating communal divide will be achieved.

I would, therefore, request the Government to be very vigilant about it. We must learn a lesson from the perfect communal peace in Punjab and try to strengthen the same.

It is often said that unemployment and poverty are the root causes of terrorism. I do not agree with this view in so far as Punjab is concerned. Punjab is one of the richest States and the unemployment problem is worse in other States. Religious fundamentalism, I think, is the cause of terrorism in Punjab. The terrorists' approach is fundamental in nature and they draw inspiration from the fundamentalist forces in their neighbourhood. The fight against the terrorists must be part of the larger fight against fundamentalist forces. The Government must formulate clear-cut policies in this regard and the fight has to be carried on at different levels. We must also make a very serious attempt to wean the young men of Punjab away from the terrorists influence. Of course, economic development must be undertaken to provide employment. But that should just be a part of the total strategy to weed out terrorism.

I hope the Government under the mature leadership of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao will succeed in his endeavour to find a durable solution to the Punjab problem.

Once again strongly support this Budget for the State of Punjab.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important issue. Shri Khurana has complained that the Punjab Budget has been presented in a very casual way. It would not have happened if there would have been a Government in Punjab. It would have cer-

tainly not happened if there had been a separate Government in Delhi and there had been a State Assembly, Khurana would have got the opportunity to discuss about Delhi and ask questions about the Sura incident.

But I have another complaint. We are going to accept this Budget. My complaint is that why the time of an intellectual like Dr. Manmohan Singh is being wasted on this Budget which is concerned with Punjab. I am pained to say this. Shri Khurana has said that Pakistan is behind all the activities which are taking place in Punjab. But I have a difference of opinion with him. I am not convinced that Pakistan is responsible for the Punjab problem. Today, Pakistan is extending help to the terrorists. Camps are there and they are being trained. But Pakistan is not responsible for the Punjab problem. We, our psyche, our political interests are responsible for that problem. A number of such people who are sitting here and are Member of this House, cannot be spared for this.

I am sorry to say that elections were not held there and the National Front Government did not have the elections held there. A mistake has been committed. Our leader Shri V.P. Singh later said that he had done a mistake and he should have had the elections held there. He should have ordered elections after he had visited Amritsar. Although later he had admitted his mistake. Shri Khurana is not present here but I have a complaint that under the pressure from senior party Members of his party, whose name I do not want to mention, the National Front Government did not order the elections in Punjab. It is known to all as to who was exerting the pressure. Why did it happen in Punjab? Today, such a situation has arisen that every turban wearing Sikh in the country is taken as suspect while our Sikh brothers wear turban to follow their religion. We have brought the situation to such a pass that even if Shri Manmohan Singh goes to another part of the country, people will take him for a terrorist or as their agent. But why this question arose? Mr. Chairman, Sir, in

[Sh. Hari Kishore Singh]

order to know as to why the present situation is there in Punjab, we will have to take into account the incident that place in Delhi in 1984. Let us search our soul.

Shri Khurana has also mentioned about the refugees. No one wants to leave his house. Whether he is a Pakistani or a Kashmiri or the people living in India. No one wants to become a refugee. But he is forced. Why is it so? Besides, these refugees, I am concerned about those political refugees also who do not want to contest election in Punjab and go to Rajasthan. They have made Rajasthan a sheltering State. The former Home Minister of India contests election from Rajasthan. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to say that the persons honouring this Chair have also gone to Rajasthan. They are political refugees. Why has it happened? During the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan the womenfolk and children of these three districts used to prepare food and take it to the soldiers even in heavy shelling. Why has the need arisen today for the forces to surround those three districts? It has not been said but it has come out in different newspapers such as the Hindustan Times. Whether the AIR or Doordarshan broadcast or telecast it or not but today the people of this country know that forces have surrounded those three districts on the border which symbolised the bravery of our country.

When the elections were about to be held, why were they cancelled midway. The polling party had started moving and scores of candidates had lost their lives. It was night and without the consent of the hon. Prime Minister the elections were cancelled. Then they blame Pakistan for creating such a situation. We should be ashamed that all this happened due to our own faults. No country can be blamed for the riots that took place in Delhi in 1984. Rather, it is a slur on humanity an our composite culture. Investigation was conducted. What was the outcome of that investigation? The people who were responsible for the riots have assumed power. Khuranaji may have some grievances against

this Government, but his party leader, Shri L.K. Advani who is also the leader of opposition has given a testimonial in favour this Government. Khuranaji or other friends may have certain grouses but the leader of opposition has nothing to complain against this Government. Had he any, he would not have issued a testimonial in its favour. After Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, no Prime Minister as competent as him has come to power in this country. Advaniji, please recollect your association with Morarji Bhai. You were also a Minister in his Cabinet. Indiraji also remained as the Prime Minister of this country. I had differences with her too. *(Interruptions)*

Please listen to what I was saying. Innocent people were being killed in Delhi. Try to recollect as to who was the Home Minister at that time. I remember, human massacre took place for three days. As per official figures, about 2300 people had been killed. If we go by the records of Doordarshan and if those cassettes are available, it would be revealed that the Home Minister, after three days, said that it was enough. If you go through the records you will come to know that the then Home Minister is the present Prime Minister of this country. *(Interruptions)* People complain about the dearth of employment opportunities. Pepsi Cola company was set up in Punjab to provide employment to the people. Shri Manmohan Singh will tell us about the avenues of employment this factory has generated. We have been informed that Coca Cola is also coming. Please invite the Macdowell company and other multinational companies to manufacture items which can be produced in our homes. Do you think it will generate employment in the country? As if, the people of this country do not know how to make cold drinks or pizza. Will this generate employment? Many poor labourers from our area go to Punjab every year. Earlier, their family members used to send them off with a smile on their lips. But today, their family members bid them farewell with a heavy heart. This reminds me the scenario of bygone days. In olden days, when a person went on a pilgrimage his last rites were performed since it was uncertain whether he would return or

not. The same is the position with Punjab today. The poor parents do not know whether their sons would return home or not. For how long will these these killings and cult of violence continue? What happened in Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh and what is happening there now. Do you think people will believe you when you say that these people were killed in an encounter. But the fact is that they lost their lives in police custody. People have lost faith in the democratic set up.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, elections in Punjab were cancelled all of a sudden. It was cancelled at the instance of the Chief Election Commissioner, Shri T.N. Seshan. The Election Commission is the custodian of democratic values of the country. Today, he got a good publicity throughout the country and **

Everyone is aware of his role in Punjab and what he is now doing in Bihar, I am sorry to say all these things although I am not accustomed to saying all this. But when I am hurt I am constrained to say all this to improve the prevailing situation in Punjab and to streamline the law and order situation..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever he said about the Election Commission will not go on record.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:**...

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if he does not withdraw, you may please expunge it from the proceedings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now it is time for Private Members Business. Please wind up.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: If it is wrong, I withdraw it. I was saying as to how the Government wishes to maintain law and order. A very eminent and ** knowledgeable person of law and order, who till recently was the Director General of C.R.D.F. in Delhi has

been brought to Punjab. It is said about him that he does not differentiate between beings and corpses.

SHRIPAWANKUMARBANSAL (Chandigarh) : On the one hand you are demanding for an improvement in the situation and on the other hand you are saying that it is wrong. Why are you giving conflicting views.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: I was pointing out that if you want to restore peace in Punjab and want to win the hearts of people and also wish to bring the disillusioned people to the national mainstream, you will have to contemplate some other way out because it is necessary.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may continue on Monday. We will now take up Members' Legislative Business.

15.30 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Substitution of new Article for Article 37)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The introduction of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill by Shri Bhogendra Jha, listed at serial No. 1, is to be opposed by Shri Sudhir Sawant.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): I have decided not to oppose it at the introduction stage. I will discuss it at a later stage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, you do not want to oppose the Bill at the introduction stage.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Not at this stage.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

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