

MR. SPEAKER : It is a tragic incident. We must sympathise with the victims.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Terrorist Activities in Punjab

\*2. †SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed by

terrorists in Punjab this year so far, month-wise ;

(b) the number of terrorists killed and arrested by the security forces during the same period ; and

(c) the outlines of the action plan under operation to wipe out terrorism and bring about normalcy in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

#### Statement

(a) and (b).

| Month                     | Persons killed in incidents due to terrorist activities | Terrorists killed | Terrorists arrested |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| January, 1988             | 143   | 16                | 171                 |
| February, 1988            | 141   | 10                | 222                 |
| March, 1988               | 266   | 25                | 277                 |
| April, 1988               | 214   | 25                | 292                 |
| May, 1988                 | 343   | 65                | 677                 |
| June, 1988                | 165   | 40                | 529                 |
| July, 1988<br>(Upto 15th) | 55  | 8                 | 42                  |

(c) After reviewing the situation in Punjab at the highest level, an Action Plan was drawn up for implementation in the State to curb terrorist activities and to prevent infiltration and smuggling of arms etc. into the country. The Plan includes the erection of a fence for a stretch of about 118 kms. along the most vulnerable sectors of the Indo-Pak border in Punjab. Based on the experience, the question of putting up a fence in the Rajasthan and Jammu sectors will also be considered. Besides, erection of physical barriers of barbed wire obstacles along 165 kms. of the border has been taken up. More OP Towers are being constructed and improving/laying of border tracks have been taken up. Gates are being

erected in the Ditch cum Bund in the Jammu sector to regulate the movement of vehicles etc. across the border. Selected stretches of the border are also being got floodlit. Patrolling in the riverine areas of Punjab and adjoining States is being taken up.

With a view to curb smuggling activities and border crossing, an IGP (Border) has been appointed and deterrent action against smugglers and their principal lieutenants under the NSA and COFEPOSA is being taken. The Police Administration in the three border districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozpur has been improved by creating additional Police districts. The intelligence gathering machinery has been

strengthened. Arrangements for checking passengers and their luggages, coming into the country through Attari and Wagha check-posts, have been strengthened.

Apart from the action at the border, several steps like organising of joint raids to flush out arms and ammunition, setting up of village protection force pickets, training of the PAP to work as 'strike force' and involvement of Ex-servicemen and villagers in Village Protection Groups has been taken. The grievances redressal machinery has been activated and a plan for coordinated media campaign to explain the policies and decisions of the Government to the people has been drawn up.

It is expected that these measures, when fully implemented will check infiltration of trained terrorists and smuggling of arms etc. from across the border.

**SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :** Mr. Speaker, the Minister has given a detailed reply and he has taken action to wipe out terrorism. I am satisfied with his answer. But, I would like to know from the Minister, what is the grievance redressal machinery and what is the plan for coordinated media to explain the policies to the people in Punjab.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member. Grievance redressal machinery is one of the items of the action plan. We deputed the Director, Public Grievances of the Government of India to Punjab to sit with the Punjab Government and work out the grievance redressal procedure. They have established a new procedure. There is an apex monitoring committee headed by the Chief Secretary of Punjab. The machinery is now in operation for about six weeks. The Director of the Public Grievances of the Government of India has been invited to go over to Punjab later this week or early next week to evaluate the work of the machinery. We would be able to give the feedback on the work of the new machinery only after a month or so.

As regards media, the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting took a meeting in Jullundur and in Chandigarh to coordinate the media work. I have only broad outlines with me. A specific question addressed to the Minister of Information and Broad-

casting will elicit full answer on the media campaign launched in Punjab.

**SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :** I would like to know whether the Minister has prepared a draft scheme to bring peace in Punjab.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** Sir, Government of India's position is, we are prepared to talk to anyone provided he eschews violence, condemns terrorism and willing to work within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

[Translation]

**SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been mentioned in the answer that 1327 people were killed in Punjab between January, 1988 and 15th July, 1988. This indicates that the situation has been continuously becoming grim. As a result of "Operation Black Thunder", certain situation was created and as a result thereof, the Government should have come forward and taken some concrete steps. I want to know as to what steps are being taken by the Government to implement the Punjab Accord and to combat the terrorists' menace effectively to restore peace in the State? I also want to be apprised of the Government attitude on the pending question of the release of Jodhpur detenus and the steps proposed to be taken to award punishment to the people held guilty for the 1984 riots? It has been reported in the Press that the Governor and the hon. Home Minister, Shri Buta Singh, have had discussions and prepared a new action plan. What are the main features of that action plan? What is the stand of the Government on the All-Party meeting?...*(Interruptions)* I want to know the Government's reaction on the question of convening of an All-Party meeting. The hon. Minister may please reply to these questions.

[English]

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** Sir, the hon. Member has asked a question which cannot be answered in a very short span of time, but let me try.

The Government is committed to implement the Punjab Accord. Many elements of the Punjab Accord have been implemented. There are some points which are difficult and

we are trying to resolve the problem. These have been debated several times in the House and we have explained the difficulties; we have explained the steps that we have taken.

As far as the Jodhpur under-trials are concerned, the matter is constantly under review. Forty under-trials were released some time ago and it is not to be used as a political issue. The matter is under review and at the appropriate time, some action has to be taken; action will be taken.

As regards the action plan, there is no secret plan. The action plan which has been implemented is the plan which has been implemented for the last three months. I have set out in the answer the major elements of the action plan. We are willing to work with other parties. In fact, more than once, the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and I have said that we must work with other parties. There are parties in Punjab which are working with us. We are grateful to them for their support. But moderate, credible political leadership must emerge in Punjab and for that end the Government will work with every one who shares our goal that we must bring back peace to Punjab.

**SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figures furnished show that on an average five persons per day were dying, were killed, and in the month of May, the average was ten per day. The number of terrorists arrested is more than 2,200 and the terrorists killed are about two hundred. Now, these facts will show that the average killing per day has not come down, except in the month of July where it is three per day till now, yesterday resulting in the killing of a High Priest. Now, these facts have obviously not show any light at the end of the tunnel. Will the Minister be able to tell us that he is hopeful and optimistic that the average will come down and that the terrorists who have already been arrested will be dealt with according to law?

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** Sir, I would only submit to you and to the hon. House that we should not look at what is happening in Punjab in terms of averages and numbers. We have repeatedly said that if you take stern action in Punjab, there will be a reaction. The terrorists will

try to re-group, will try to attack. What happened in May is that we condemned the killings; what happened in May was the reaction to certain very strong steps taken, particularly in cleansing the Golden Temple of the terrorists. In fact, the day we took action, we said we expect reaction in the countryside, we expect the terrorists' groups to reorganise and strike back. But kindly see what has happened afterwards. We have been able to remove and disorganise certain terrorists groups. They are finding it more difficult to regroup and attack now. We have been able to stop the flow of arms and ammunitions and trained terrorists across the border considerably. The plan is being implemented. I have no doubt in my mind, while the plan itself will not take us to a political solution, that requires some other steps to be taken. When the plan on the ground is implemented the flow of arms and ammunitions and training of terrorists across the border will considerably be reduced and we would be able to cripple many of the terrorists groups which are active in Punjab today. As far as terrorists who had been arrested are concerned, I can assure the House that they will be dealt with strictly according to the law.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** My supplementary is connected with part-C of the original question. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that at the height of terrorists activities in Punjab, news had appeared very prominently that one Indian Airlines flight coming from Kabul had a crater containing ammunition and actually the rocket launchers and the officers there at the Airport felt that probably this was the supply that was to go into the hands of the terrorists; they had detained the entire lot there; they did not allow anyone to take delivery. But is it a fact that only RAW Officers came there and took charge of the ammunitions and rocket launchers? Would you try to explain to the House whether they found out that those deliveries were to be given to the terrorists or whether the RAW itself had asked for it and for what purpose that particular crater was asked for?

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** I am sorry that this question should be raised now because in the last session—I am not quite sure whether in this House or in the other House—I have made a categorical statement.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** I tried to raise it in this house but I was not allowed. So, I brought it now by back-door. Sir, I think the word back-door is not unparliamentary.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** I have made a categorical statement repudiating the report. Sir, intelligence agencies in this country are alert of developments elsewhere in the world and we do get equipment from time to time for the purpose of our own analysis and to keep abreast of what is happening elsewhere in the world. It is malicious, wrong and incorrect to suggest that any portion of that consignment found its way into terrorists hands. I think the controversy should end with the categorical statement on the side of the Government. No portion of that has gone to anyone. It is all accounted for, it is with an Intelligence Agency.

**DR. G.S. DHILLON :** Sir, the hon. Minister in his earlier reply to a Member made a reference to the moderate Sikhs. Does the hon. Minister consider that two Akali Dals represented in this House by Shri Ramoowalia and Bhai Shamindar Singh are moderate ?

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** By all appearances, Mr. Ramoowalia is a moderate.

**AN HON. MEMBER :** Both of them.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA :** As far as I have understood, the hon. Minister has just now stated in his reply that any force or pressure on the terrorists would evoke a violent reaction from them and they can commit more murders. We may recall that when widespread violence, killings and reign of terror was taking place in Punjab, the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, had taken military action against the terrorists which resulted in her assassination by the terrorists. Even after 3½ years of this incident, the case about it pending in the court has not been decided. Later, the Government took a lenient view and released leaders. But the fact remains that more the leniency on the part of the Government, more is the increase in the acts of terrorism. Would such killings continue to be a daily routine ? Will the Government take such steps as to stop such killings in future ?

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Please

also ask about the Mishra Commission.

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to assure the hon. Member, who has raised various issues here, that the Indira Gandhi assassination case is still pending in the Supreme Court. So, I cannot comment on that issue. As to the other points, I want to make one thing very clear that the Government has never shown any leniency in dealing with the terrorism. Even in future the Government will never turn a soft corner in this matter. The present Government has pledged to root out terrorism from the soil of Punjab.

[English]

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :** Sir, the Statement...

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Ramoo wants to a rise on a personal explanation. Sir. (Interruptions). He says he is not moderate ! (Interruptions).

**MR. SPEAKER :** He is extremely moderate.

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :** Sir, the statement mentions the action plan which includes the erection of fencing in about 118 kilometres. I would like to know what is the progress. Is it a fact that there are several impediments in the erection of fences because of land acquisition etc. and progress is very slow particularly in the Rajasthan and Jammu border ? Nothing has been done so far. Actually what is the position ? What is the progress of the fencing ?

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** Sir, the 118 kilometres border which we are fencing today is entirely in the Punjab border. We have not yet taken up fencing along the Jammu border and the Rajasthan border. Therefore, it is not correct to say that progress is slow in Jammu border and Rajasthan border. (Interruptions).

As regards the 118 kilometres, about 68 kilometres, are complete. All but 18 kilometres will be completed by the 31st of July. A small portion is in a river bed, for which we have given time up to the 31st of August. I want to take this opportunity, Sir, to thank the people of Punjab who have willingly allowed us to erect the fences with-

out making any claims for compensation, without asking for anything in return and without placing impediments. We have received the total cooperation of all the villages on the border where the fencing is being put up.

[Translation]

**SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA :** Mr. Speaker Sir, despite the terrorist activities in Punjab, the last 8 years have seen people in the State, specially Sikhs and Hindus, living in perfect harmony. Writers, journalists and intellectuals of Punjab complain that the Government plays down events which encourage Hindus and Sikhs of Punjab to unite against and combat terrorism. Such events are not given due coverage by the Government-controlled media like radio and television. Will the Government consider giving coverage on radio and T.V. to the events which encourage Hindu-Sikh amity? The Government should encourage everyone including the writers engaged in such work.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** The points raised by hon. Shri Ramoowalia have already been clarified by my hon. colleague Shri Chidambaram. The present-day situation demands such an approach. I am happy to note that our hon. colleagues from the Akali Dal share the same opinion. Wherever such instances have come to notice, be it in Hoshiarpur or Ludhiana, the Governor has visited those places as a representative of the Centre and the State Government. Doordarshan correspondents also went there to give due coverage to the joint efforts of Hindus and Sikhs to combat terrorism. In a recent happening in Samrala, two persons proved that the bond between the two communities is much stronger than any blood-relationship. Wide publicity has been given to whatever the Government has done in memory of the sacrifice made by these two persons. Besides this, the suggestions given by the hon. Member in the House will be implemented in toto. In the last 5 years, the spirited resistance put up by the people of Punjab against terrorism has strengthened the Government's hands. The Government will whole-heartedly approve and encourage their efforts.

**SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY :** Sir...

**MR. SPEAKER :** After some time a full discussion will be held on this subject.

At that stage, you may participate in it.

[English]

### Technology Missions

\*3. **SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the areas of problems recognised for the five technology missions and how are these missions structured ;

(b) the stipulated objectives and identified accountabilities of these programmes ;

(c) the progress so far made under these missions ; and

(d) whether the family planning has been taken as one of these five missions and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

### Statement

(a) The areas chosen for the five Technology Missions are :

- (i) Rural Drinking water
- (ii) Immunisation of pregnant women and infants
- (iii) Functional literacy for persons in the 15—35 age group
- (iv) Accelerating self-reliance in edible oils, and
- (v) Better communications.

At the Central level there is a Mission Director for each Mission, who is responsible for implementation of the Mission. He reports to the Secretary concerned under the Minister. The Adviser to Prime Minister on Technology Missions provides overall guidance for planning implementation of the Missions.

(b) The broad objectives of the Missions, along with nodal agencies, are given in Table 'A' below.