

With these words, I support the Punjab Budget Proposals.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall now break for Lunch and meet once again at 2.15 p.m.

13.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the clock

14.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR (Gaya)

14.21 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (PUNJAB)
1991-92 *CONTD.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Sir, for a long time Punjab did not have a democratically elected Government and due to this reason the Central Government had to pass the Punjab Budget on the last five occasions. The House passes the Budget with the hope that peace and prosperity will return to Punjab. The Punjab Budget is being passed unanimously but peace in Punjab is nowhere in sight. This has put a question mark over the survival of democracy in the country. Is the situation in Punjab careful enough for its citizens?

Sir, everyone must keep in mind that our country has a Constitution which lays down certain norms. Everyone should understand

the true meaning of Independence. Nobody should think that it is an assault on his self-respect. The need of the hour is to establish a democratically elected Government in Punjab. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it is feasible to hold elections in Punjab on 15th February in view of the situation prevailing there. I and my party and for that matter even the masses are in favour of elections in Punjab so that the future of Punjab is in hands of its citizens. Considering the disturbed atmosphere in Punjab, are elections going to be held at the point of a gun? This point must be considered very seriously as it is a matter of concern for everyone. At the same time, to restore normalcy in Punjab we must not make any compromise with the unity and integrity of the country.

Sir, I am sure the Government will make efforts to restore the confidence among the people. I want to draw attention towards the fact that the people of Punjab have lost their faith. Their faith has been shattered to a great extent. There are examples before us which show that in Punjab whole administration has come in to the hands of extremists. There, the industrialists are so much frightened that for the sake of their lives, they set apart a portion of their income for the extremists. Extremists are running a parallel Government there these days. Cases concerning properties are settled by the extremists. The judiciary has been paralysed, the judges are frightened because there are no security arrangements for them. The judgements are not dispensing justice to the people. In Punjab, the district administration is non-existent and the word of extremists region supreme there. Their writ runs in every sphere. In newspapers we come across several such newsitems daily in which the senior administrative officers beg pardon of the extremists through advertisements and surrender to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of both, you and the House, towards the fact that today Punjab problem is a big challenge for India. This problem is a challenge to the unity integrity of the country