

historic days. It is a known fact that during the long foreign rule over India, it was great hero Shivaji Maharaj who established a sovereign rule over a territory in Maharashtra in 1660 AD. We have so much respect for his deeds and have his statues all over the country. After him, the second person who had the honour of overthrowing the Mughal Rule in Punjab is Baba Banda Singh Bahadur who started his journey of victory from Nanded in Maharashtra and entered Punjab in 1709 AD. He was blessed by his master Guru Gobind Singhji in Nanded and was bestowed with armour of the Guru.

Baba Banda Singh Bahadur defeated the Mughal Governor of Sirhind on 12th May, 1710 and was declared a sovereign ruler of Punjab. He established his capital near Nahan, now in Himachal Pradesh, and built a fort named Lohgarh. At that time, the entire agriculture land was owned by the Mughal Emperor and the tillers were treated as *Muzares*. It was to the credit of Baba Banda Bahadur that he in a proclamation on 27th May, 1710 AD made all the tillers of the land as owners of the land. This historic order changed the whole economy of Punjab and brought jubilation to the entire farming community.

I request that the Government of India should decide to commemorate the historic victory of Banda Bahadur, 200 years ago, by forming a national committee to honour the memory of great warrior and set up suitable memorials at historic places in India and also produce literature on his life and deeds. He died later on as a martyr and the details of that are written by the British travellers who were witness to that gruesome torture. Thank you.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I associate myself with this issue. I would just like to mention that Banda Bairagi, who was a Bairagi on the banks of Godavari, was blessed by Guru Gobind Singhji and was baptised. Ultimately, Guru Gobind Singhji gave him spiritual and marshal power. He invaded Punjab to take revenge of shahidee of four Sahebjasdas and of Guru Teg Bahadur. Ultimately, he became a good administrator and a reformist. When he got this land transferred from Zamindars and Mughal Emperors in favour of farmers, that was a big revolution. In these days, even in a democracy, it is very difficult to go for land reforms in our country. In those days, he had done that with power, might, sword and with conviction. Thank you.

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

Demand to assess the credibility of Electronic Voting Machines in the country

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, अब तक केवल राजनेता ही इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग मशीनों की विश्वसनीयता पर उंगली उठाते रहे हैं, पर अब विशेषज्ञ भी उसमें गड़बड़ी की सम्भावनाओं को सिद्ध कर रहे हैं। विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों के अध्ययन के आधार पर यह भी कहा जा रहा है कि यदि मशीन का सोर्स कोड ज्ञात हो

जाए, तो वह व्यक्ति बिना खुद ज्ञात हुए अनगिनत वोट डाल सकता है। एक प्रयोग सफल सिद्ध हुआ लगता है कि प्रत्येक दस के बाद हर पांचवा वोट एक निश्चित उम्मीदवार के पक्ष में डाला जा सकता है।

यह भारत जैसे श्रेष्ठ प्रजातंत्र के लिए बहुत गम्भीर व चिंताजनक विषय है। आने वाले दिनों में कई विधान सभा चुनाव हैं।

मेरा सरकार से आग्रह है कि वह सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश की अध्यक्षता में निष्पक्ष उच्च टेक्नीकल टीम के द्वारा जांच-पड़ताल व सार्वजनिक प्रयोग कर आशंकाओं को शीघ्र दूर करे अथवा मतदान की कोई अन्य पारदर्शी व्यवस्था कराए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Praveen Rashtrapal. Not present. Miss Anusuiya Uikey. Not present. Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

Increasing incidents of assaults of whistle blowers in the country

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I rise to command the attention of this House towards growing trend of assaults on the whistle blowers by unscrupulous contractors and criminal mafia allegedly backed by local leaders in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. It is even more alarming that the State administrations could neither provide security to the whistle blowers nor have been able to act against the alleged culprits. Such incidents put the lives of engineers and workmen to hazards. It is demoralising to work under such undue pressure. The Central Government has undertaken the massive project of building the highways and road linkages to villages and resurrects the infrastructure through Central or Centrally Sponsored Schemes. These projects are being largely implemented by the State agencies. However, there have been serious complaints about pilferage and misallocation of funds from these projects. There have also been allegations about inferior quality of work and material being used by the contractors. In the interest of the projects funded by the Central Government, unless this is checked, the unholy nexus of contractors mafia and local leaders will resist every effort to provide equitable and inclusive development at grass root level. These incidents are unacceptable as we have made a commitment to provide corruption-free governance to our people. It is alarming that such incidents are taking place despite Government's Whistle Blowers Resolution to protect them. I call upon the Government to expand the coverage of this Resolution to include Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the State Governments.

Need to fully fund Central Government Schemes

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, various Departments of the Central Government announce schemes from time to time on the subjects mentioned on any one of the three lists of the Constitution.

However, the Central Government while framing a scheme presupposes and takes for granted share of the State Governments in the implementation of such schemes. The State Governments, in fact, have their own priorities and that, their budgets may not have scope to take burden of all the schemes proposed by the Central Government, however, good they may be.