

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 26th April, 1988/6th
Vaisakha, 1910 (Saka)

The House Met at eleven of the clock,
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Ramsingbhai Pataliyabhai Rath-
vakoli (Gujarat).

OBITUARY REFERENCE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hon Members, before I take up the Questions I refer with sorrow to the passing away of Shrimati Pushpaben Janardanrai Mehta, a former Member of the Rajya Sabha from the State of Gujarat. Shrimati Pushpaben Janardanrai Mehta was born in March 1905 at Prabhas Patan, Somnath, Saurashtra and she had her education privately.

A dedicated and noted social worker, Shrimati Pushpaben Janardanrai Mehta was founder of a number of organisations for the rehabilitation of women and children. Shrimati Mehta's dedication to social work earned for her the national recognition when she was awarded 'Padma Bhushan' in 1955. She was also the recipient of Janaki Devi Bajaj Award. She was a Member of the Legislative Assembly of erstwhile States of Saurashtra and Bombay and later on Gujarat before she was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1966.

Shrimati Pushpaben Janardanrai Mehta was a lover of wild-life, folk songs and literature interested her the most.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shrimati Pushpaben Janardanrai Mehta.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

232 RS—1

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the Members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Action plan to deal with Punjab situation

*21. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government, in consultation with the officials of the Punjab Government, have recently finalised an action plan to deal with the Punjab situation;

(b) if so, what are the details of the action plan; and

(c) by when the action plan will be implemented and to what extent the increasing activities of terrorists will be curbed thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The situation in Punjab has been reviewed in the light of the recent escalation of violence and terrorist acts. Detailed discussions were held with the District Magistrates and the Senior Superintendents of Police of the 12 districts in Punjab. This was followed by a review with State level officers and another review with officials of the Central Government. Based upon these discussions, an Action Plan has been drawn up for implementation in Punjab.

While it would not be in public interest to disclose all the aspects of the Action Plan, Government wish to share with

the Hon'ble Members some of the key elements of the Action Plan. They are as follows:

1. More effective policing of the border which will include putting up fencing along the most vulnerable segments of the border; floodlighting improving the jeep track along the border; constructing more observation towers and introducing sophisticated equipment to detect and check intruders.

2. Revamping and strengthening the intelligence gathering machinery in Punjab. An officer of the rank of IGP has been appointed as IGP (Intelligence). Suitable decisions have been taken regarding strengthening intelligence gathering machinery at the Police Station level.

3. Effective anti-smuggling operations. An officer of the rank of IGP has been appointed as IGP (Border) with special responsibility for anti-smuggling operations. More steps are underway to put down smuggling.

4. Improving the Police administration in the border district of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozepur. Amritsar has been trifurcated into three Police districts and Gurdaspur has been bifurcated into two Police districts. Each Police district will be under the charge of an SSP and the SSPs have been given certain specific tasks which are being carried out.

5. Expanding and improving vigilance in the villages. A Village Protection Force will be set up in each village in the affected districts. Already 140 village pickets have been established which will form the nucleus of the Village Protection Force. Home Guards and ex-servicemen will be taken into the force. The daily allowance of Home Guards has been increased to Rs. 25. The village pickets will be supported by suitable strike forces but it would not be in public interest to disclose the details.

6. The strength of the security forces along the border has been reviewed and suitably enhanced.

7. The role of the Punjab Armed Police has been redefined and an officer of the rank of IGP has been appointed as IGP (Armed Police).

8. The State Government have drawn up an area Improvement plan which would be implemented in the areas surrounding the Golden Temple complex.

9. Several steps, including transfer of personnel, have been taken to activate the State administration and make it more effective.

10. A machinery for redressal of public grievances has been set up and specific responsibilities assigned at each level. An Apex body has been set up to monitor redressal of public grievances.

11. The State Government are taking steps to revive the Lok Shakti Samagams which have proved useful in the past. Some changes have been made and based on the experience, the Samagams will be resumed with effect from 1st May, 1988.

12. In order to match the sophisticated weapons which are now being used by terrorists, sophisticated arms and other equipment have been rushed to Punjab.

13. Steps are underway to plug the sources of money which flows to terrorists and extremists.

14. Six battalions of ITBP have been deployed for Bank protection.

The political aspects of the problem in Punjab have also been kept in view. Suitable decisions will be taken from time to time.

श्री हरबेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : चेयरमैन साहब यह जो स्टैटमेंट टेबल के ऊपर ले किया गया है, ऐसा लगता है कि यह काफी मेहनत करके बनाया गया है। जो कुछ इसमें कहा गया है उस में कोई नई चीज नहीं मिलती जिसे कि अब तक हम लोगों ने अखबारों में न पढ़ लिया हो या जिसकी चर्चा न हुई हो। इसमें कहा गया है कि फेसिंग ऐलांग दि बार्डर किया जा रहा है। लेकिन इसमें यह नहीं कहा गया है कि पहले क्यों नहीं की गई। अब उसमें कितना टाइम लगेगा। आपने कहा है कि स्ट्रेथिंग आफ दि इंटेलिजेंस पंजाब में की गई, नए आई० जी० पी० ऐपाइंट हो गए। क्या इसका मतलब यह समझें कि इससे पहले इंटेलिजेंस की तरफ ध्यान नहीं था? हमारे अफसर अच्छे नहीं थे और इंटेलिजेंस बहुत पुअर थी? अब अच्छे अफसर आ गए हैं। ऐंटी स्मगलिंग ऑपरेशंस में भी कहा गया है कि नए आई० जी० पी० वहां पर ऐपाइंट किए गए हैं और पुलिस ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन हमारे बार्डर डिस्ट्रक्ट अमृतसर, गुरदासपुर और फीरोजपुर में इंप्रूव की गई। इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि सरकार का इस तरफ पहले ध्यान नहीं था। जो समस्या पांच साल से चल रही है उसकी तरफ अब ध्यान दिया जा रहा है।

छठे प्वाइंट में कहा गया है कि—

"The strength of the security forces along the border has been reviewed and suitably enhanced." In the eighth point it has been said "The State Government have drawn up an area improvement plan which would be implemented in areas surrounding the Golden Temple complex."

कुछ भी और न कहा जाए तो मैं यह मान सकता हूं कि 1984 में ब्लू स्टार ऑपरेशन से पहले गोल्डन टेम्पल के अंदर बहुत से हथियार पहुंच चुके थे। जो कुछ हुआ उसका जिक्र करने की जरूरत नहीं है लेकिन अगर वहां दोबारा हथियार जा रहे हैं तो उसके लिए जिम्मेदार किसको आप ठहराएंगे?

बहुत सी बातें और भी कहीं गई हैं—

"Steps are under way to plug the sources of money which flows to terrorists and extremists."

क्या शब्द इस्तेमाल करें। ए० के० 47 जो टैरोरिस्टों से छीन ली गई वह हमारी सैक्युरिटी गाडस लेकर घूमते हैं। क्या सरकार इससे पहले सोई हुई थी? उनको पहले अच्छे हथियार क्यों नहीं दिये गए? इतने आदमी मरवाने के बाद अब हमारी समझ में आ रहा है कि हमें बेहतर हथियार वहां देने चाहिए, साफिस्टिकेटेड वैपन्स वहां पर देने चाहिए।

All political aspects of the problem in Punjab have also been kept in view.

इसका अब ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। यह प्वाइंट भी जैसा मैंने पहले कहा कोई नया नहीं है। सिर्फ दो लाइन आखीर में जोड़ दी गई हैं। मेरा कहना यह कि—

It is not merely a law and order problem in Punjab. It is essential a political problem.

दो पेज के बाद लिख दिया तो मैं समझता हूं कि यह काफी नहीं है।

श्री सभापति : आप प्रश्न कीजिए।

श्री हरबेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि मुझे खुशी है कि आपने जो ऐक्शन लिया है, लेकिन इसके बाद क्या इंप्रूवमेंट हुई है। इन स्टैप्स के लेने के बाद आपने क्या इंप्रूवमेंट पंजाब की सिचुएशन में महसूस की? दूसरा सवाल यह है कि बार बार यह कहा गया है कि इसमें पाकिस्तान का हाथ है... (व्यवधान) करीब आज से चार साल पहले पंजाब की सिचुएशन पर बोलत हुए मैंने कहा था कि यह जरूरी नहीं है कि सिख लोग लाखों की वहां पर हत्याएं कर रहे हैं, यह रेकार्ड में है कि कोई भी पाकिस्तान से जाकर हत्या कर सकता है क्यों कि वेस्ट पाकिस्तान और वेस्ट पंजाब में लोग रहते हैं उनकी बोली एक है, शकलें एक हैं, सिर्फ दाढ़ी रख लें और सिर पर पगड़ी बांध लें तो वह सिख बन जाता है इसलिए यह जरूरी नहीं कि सिख मार रहे हों। हो सकता है पाकिस्तान से यहां लोग भेजे जाते हो जो लोगों का कत्ल करते रहें। अगर सरकार ने यह महसूस कर लिया है तो उसके बारे में वह क्या करने जा रहे हैं?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government does not under-estimate the gravity of the situation of Punjab. Since President's rule was imposed in Punjab, the Governor has been taking a number of steps. They had achieved a certain measure of success in the first few months. It is only after January 1988, there was a sharp deterioration in the situation. We have debated this matter in this House. We have taken note of the strong views expressed by the hon. Members and we have reviewed the situation. On the basis of that review, we have drawn up an action plan. The question, Sir, as you will kindly see, seeks to know details about the action plan which has been formulated recently and which is being implemented and I have given as much details as is possible. This plan is being implemented now and we hope that we would be able to fight terrorism more effectively through this plan. It is too early to ask for results of this plan but let me say that during the last two weeks, 21 terrorists have been killed. Our border security forces have had some success in stopping as well as killing intruders. Large cache of arms have been seized, weapons have been seized. There is a more systematic drive against terrorists' arms dumps, arms cache and weapons in the hands of terrorists, I hope, Sir, that when the full impact of the action plan is felt in the affected districts, our security forces, who are putting up a very brave struggle against terrorism will be able to show greater success. Sir, we do not deny that ultimately, we must find a political solution to the Punjab problem. In fact, we repeatedly said in this House that the final solution can only be a political solution. But I think we are in a Catch-22 situation. You cannot find a meaningful political solution unless you make it clear that terrorism will not pay and we are not going to yield to terrorism. The advantage which we seemed to have until December 1987, apparently slipped out of our hands in January, February and March. We are trying to regain that advantage in this fight against terrorism. The political aspects of the situation are always kept in view. The Prime Minister, the Home Minister have interacted with

a large number of people from various walks of life including senior leaders of political parties. Members of political parties whose leaders were called for such interactions are aware of the nature of these interaction. I share the concern and sorrow of the hon. Members but I would take to reaffirm the Government's determination to fight terrorism but at the same time, continue the search for a meaningful political solution.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Sir, he said Catch-22 situation? What is Catch-22?

श्री हरबेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : चैयरमैन साहब, आई एग्नी जो कुछ मंत्री जी ने कहा। लेकिन इसमें सवाल यह पैदा होता है कि दिसम्बर और जनवरी, 87 में जब सिचुएशन अच्छी थी उस वक्त कोई पालिटिकल सोल्यूशन क्यों नहीं निकाला गया? खैर चलिए, इस तरफ अब आपका ध्यान आया यह खुशी की बात है। मैंने यह भी पूछा था कि फेंसिंग करने में कितना टाइम लगेगा यह आपने नहीं बताया। लेकिन अखबारों के जरिये से यह मालूम हुआ कि बार्डर को फेंसिंग करने में दो महीने लगेंगे। अगर यह सही है तो हम यह समझ लें कि फेंसिंग करने के बाद जीरो किलिंग हो जायेगी? लेकिन फेंसिंग अगर दो महीने में होगी और एवरेज यह मान लें कि कम से कम पांच आदमी रोज मरते हैं तो 300 आदमी तब तक मर चुके होंगे। आजकल पांच से ज्यादा मरते हैं फिर भी अगर हम मान लें कि पांच रोज मरते हैं तो 60 दिन में 300 आदमी मर चुके होंगे। तो क्या हम यह ऐक्सप्ट कर लें...

श्री सभापति : बहुत लम्बा सवाल मत कीजिए। सवाल कीजिए।

श्री दीपेन घोष : आप इस्तीफा मांगिये।

श्री हरबेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : वह तो शायद आपको देना पड़ेगा।

श्री दीपेन घोष : समय आयेगा तुम्हें इस्तीफा देना होगा।

श्री हरबेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : शायद इतनी सख्त बात आप नहीं कर सकते हैं जितनी मैं कह रहा हूँ। कोई भी अपोजिशन के मेम्बर इस मामले में सीरियस नहीं हैं। आप अगर सीरियस होते तो यह प्रोब्लम अब तक सोल्व हो गई होती। मैं एक-एक पार्टी का नाम लेकर कह सकता हूँ . . . (व्यवधान)।

The Opposition has absolutely no seriousness in the matter...

SHRI K. MOHANAN: This is a joke for the 20th century.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: A new discovery.

श्री हरबेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : जितनी भी अपोजिशन पार्टीज हैं वे अलग-अलग स्टेन्ड लेती हैं जितने भी लोग यहां पर बैठे हुए हैं वे सब पंजाब में, लुधियाना में, अमृतसर में एक स्टेन्ड लेते हैं और दिल्ली में दूसरा स्टेन्ड लेते हैं। दिल्ली में उनका स्टेन्ड अलग होता है . . . (व्यवधान)।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Who says that? You talk of action plan here and you impose President's rule there.

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANS-PAL: You are not serious at all....

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल कीजिए।

श्री हरबेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : श्रीमन, मैं कामनमैन की बात कर रहा था। आज पंजाब में यह हालत है कि कामनमैन की छाती पर एके-47 पड़ी हुई है। ये लोग उनके घरों में घुस जाते हैं, वह उनको खाना भी खिलाता है और खाना नहीं खिलाता है तो उसको गोली से मार दिया जाता है . . . (व्यवधान)।

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: What is the question?

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल तो कीजिए।

श्री हरबेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि जो किलिंग हो रही है उसको

खत्म करने के लिए और बन्द करने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है? क्या एक्शन ले रही है? दो महीने के अन्दर जो किलिंग हो जाएगी, उसकी संभावना न रहे, इसके लिए आप प्रिवेंटिव एक्शन क्या ले रहे हैं?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Government is of the view that there has been an acceleration in the killings, there has been an escalation in the killings, because of the continuous flow of arms as well as trained terrorists from across the border. It is to control this escalation and stop the flow of arms and trained terrorists from across the border that we have worked out a package of measures. One of the measures is to put up fencing along the vulnerable segments of the Indo-Pak border. This is being done on a crash basis. The work has already started. I cannot give a definite time when this would be completed. But I am hopeful that it will be completed in about two to three months in the vulnerable segments which have been identified. But there will still be other segments in which fencing will have to be put up and that will be taken up later after the vulnerable segments are covered. As I said, fencing is only one of the measures. A combination of measures, a package of measures, have been devised, and it is my hope that when these measures take effect, we will be able to stem, if not completely stop, the killings. But our goal is to stop the killings and eliminate terrorism in Punjab.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: It is obvious that President's rule in Punjab has failed completely. You have failed to eliminate terrorism, you have failed to prevent infiltration of arms from Pakistan and you have failed to stop corruption in the police and other departments in Punjab. The net result is that you have become impotent. May I ask the honourable Minister whether this package of measures, this plan of action, that has been there, includes as a vital element a political settlement? I am not sure that without a political settlement terrorism and violence can be eliminated in Punjab. The Government, particularly the

Home Ministry, is putting the cart before the horse. Firstly, you have got to solve the problem politically. And then terrorists have got to be eliminated. Now you want to eliminate terrorism without solving the political problem, the political question. May I ask him whether this approach, this strategy, will really solve the problem in Punjab and lead to a political settlement ultimately? He has been talking of an ultimate political settlement. He is not talking of an immediate political settlement.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The honourable Member has, of course, expressed a point of view. I cannot accept the charge that the President's Rule has failed. As far as the search for a political solution is concerned, I have stated the Government's position. The political aspects of the Punjab problem are always kept in view. I can seek support from the many statements made by the leaders of some other political parties. Unless we ensure that the message has gone home that terrorism will not pay, that we will not bow to terrorism, I do not think that it is possible to find a solution, a final political solution. Therefore, the action plan which I have spelt out deals with the measures taken to fight terrorism while, at the same time, we continue to look for a political solution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mrs. Najma Heptulla.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Sir, I agree with my colleague that there has been a strengthening of the police force. We were discussing the working of the Home Ministry in our House yesterday and everybody spoke about Punjab and the situation in the whole country and the whole country is worried about it. Today, everybody has agreed also that we have to find a political solution and our Minister also agreed to it and said that we have to find a solution. Well, Sir, in this connection, I would like to say that today there is a news item in the papers that there was a very high-power committee meeting yesterday with the Prime

Minister and the Home Minister and a few other leaders of Punjab. Will the Home Minister be in a position to let the House know about the discussion that took place? Or, are these discussions still at a rudimentary stage and, therefore, he would not like to disclose anything about those discussions? This is what I would like to know.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the meeting that was held yesterday was not a meeting of any high-power committee. The Prime Minister had invited very learned and eminent men from various walks of life including the senior leaders of the political parties. About three or four weeks ago he had invited another group of people. These are continuing. This is a continuing exercise in which the Prime Minister intends to exchange views and hold a dialogue with leaders from various walks of life including the newspaper editors and leaders of the political parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, I must congratulate the honourable Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Chidambaram....

SOME HON. MEMBERS: For what?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: ...for his candid admission that during the President's Rule there has been increasing infiltration by extremists with highly sophisticated arms, by trained extremists, from across the border and there has been an escalation in the number of killings. This is yet another reason for which his Government must quit and quit immediately today... (Interruptions)... because they have no right to stay on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: They have no right to stay on... (Interruptions)... Sir, they have no right to stay on. I say this because in this House, last year, the Home Minister had made a statement while laying the Report of the Governor on the Table of the House and the reason, that

was stated then for imposing the President's Rule in Punjab was that there had been a deterioration in the law and order situation, there had been a failure on the part of the then State Government to tackle the problem of extremists and there had been escalation in the killings. So, that was the statement made and the admission today made by Mr. Chidambaram is that during the President's Rule extremists who are well-trained and equipped with sophisticated arms, have come from across the border. And, Sir, what is President's Rule? President's Rule is the Central Government rule.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question now.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Naturally, Sir, this is the reason why they should quit... (Interruptions)... My specific question is ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI K. MOHANAN: The question is when they are going to resign... (Interruptions)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, my specific question emanates from the main question regarding the action plan. Mr. Buta Singh might remember that there was a meeting last year... (Interruptions)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question now.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The question is this. There was a meeting last year in the Prime Minister's office. The Prime Minister had held that meeting with the leaders of the opposition parties and groups. Mr. Buta Singh was present. An Action Plan was prepared in that meeting. Mr. Buta Singh was authorised to prepare that Action Plan. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: As Mr. Hanspal has said, the problem is essentially a political one. That Action Plan was aimed at political action. That Action Plan was started. Now what made the Government to get away from implementing that Action Plan? This is my specific

question. That Action Plan was drawn up by Mr. Buta Singh in consultation with all the opposition parties. Now why did they desist from taking action on that Action Plan?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Our hon. friend might have shifted from Row No. 1 to Row No. 2, but we are not going to run away.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Next year you will be coming to this side and we will be going to that side.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What was discussed last year was to conduct mass meeting in Punjab involving all the political parties. Mass meetings were indeed conducted. I am grateful to the CPI and the CPM who joined the Congress (I) in holding these meetings.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We participated in that Action Plan. We did not join the Congress (I).

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The BJP also cooperated. Afterwards some political forces, some individuals, tried to use this not for carrying the message to the people of Punjab and building confidence in them, but for mutual recriminations based on political considerations. Therefore, if this thing is stopped, then it is not the fault of anyone. As I have said, we are going to have Lok Shakti Samagam from 1st of May 1988. I extend a very cordial invitation to Shri Dipen Ghosh to join us. Under the new programme, we go to the people from 1st of May, 1988. (Interruptions) Joining the party will be the best thing. But I cannot expect you to do that.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: As Mr. Hanspal has already stated, the basic point is the influx of weapons from across the borders which are being dumped into the Amritsar temple. Sir, we are faced with a very bad situation. Since 1984, these Amritsar dumps are being used against the common people. As you know, this Mujahid problem has also come. The Government has not given any information whatever about it in the present reply. Now one of the fall-outs of this terrorist

problem in Punjab is that the whole problem is being taken over to the big cities like Bombay, Poona, Madras and Calcutta. Has the Ministry of Home Affairs taken any cognizance of the fact that the Khalistan Liberation Army has spread all along in Bombay, Poona, Madras and Calcutta? What steps are you going to take to stop these things because it is a very difficult position for the people in those areas? In this connection I wanted to know one thing and I agree with the Minister of Home Affairs that unless the terrorists are brought to book and unless the terrorists are brought to a position where they will agree to a political solution this is only dreaming that there will be a political solution. I think, the practical and pragmatic way is to step up action against the terrorists and bring them to a position whereby a political situation will be reached and where Sushil Muni or some other Munis have got a limited scope. I would, like to ask the hon. Home Minister as to what steps you are going to take about the proliferation of terrorism in the rest of the country because people are going to suffer on this account. And the second thing is that the Government should bring the terrorists to book. Otherwise, this political solution will not be there.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, from time to time we have received reports about the support extended by organisations which have names similar to the names which we know that exist in Punjab emanating from some parts of North India and Maharashtra. But, Sir, I don't think that there is any confirmed information that these terrorist groups have spread themselves in an organised way to other States. But I take the word of caution from the hon. Member, Mr. Kulkarni. We are vigilant. We have alerted the Northern States as well as Maharashtra and Gujarat. We will continue to be on the vigil.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Should I supply you the letter?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have got your letter.

श्री बेकल उत्साही : सभापति महोदय, यह बात सिद्ध हो चुकी है कि पंजाब में आतंकवादियों को कदम कदम पर पाकिस्तान हथियारों और आर्थिक तौर से सज्जित कर रहा है। तो भारत सरकार इस बारे में कोई ठोस मसविदा तैयार करके, जिसमें पाकिस्तान का हाथ होने का प्रमाण मौजूद हो, उसको संसार के देशों और संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के सामने रखने का विचार रखती है जिससे कि संसार में पाकिस्तान के झूठ का पर्दाफाश हो सके ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as we have said before, the involvement of Pakistan is conclusively established in the escalation of terrorism in Punjab. In the last two weeks alone, for the period from 7th to 23rd April, 30 intruders were killed on the border while they were trying to cross over from Pakistan into India. We have information that two Pakistani rangers also died in these incidents. Although matters surrounded by some kind of controversy are tried to be raised by Pakistan, the Ministry of External Affairs have presented an *aide-memoire* to the Pakistan Government bringing to their notice the evidence in our hand and taking serious exception to the support given by Pakistan to terrorist activities in Punjab. Sir, any other question relating to what the Ministry of External Affairs proposes to do, I think the hon. Member should address it to the External Affairs Ministry and I am sure that Ministry will certainly be more competent to answer that question.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, this Government has always been having an inverted look at the Punjab problem. In its list of priorities always the first comes last and the last comes first. Otherwise, Sir, if you see the list of key elements which they have mentioned, political solution is not even numbered. It comes at the end. And I would like to know from the Minister what exactly he means by the political aspects. Is it the revival of the Punjab Accord which is treated as dead or the restoration of the popular rule or the negotiations with the

concerned parties? What exactly does he mean by political aspects? And, secondly, Sir, the extremists are using very sophisticated weapons like AK-47 and rockets, and one of the extremist leaders has given an interview recently wherein he has stated that they are obtaining, not AK-47, but some of the sophisticated weapons from Indian army sources. I do not know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Minister. In such a case what action has the Government taken to plug the source of supply of these sophisticated weapons?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I made it very clear that the source of supply of these weapons is Pakistan as well as that these weapons are bought in foreign arms markets. There is no information that any weapons from the Indian army depots have gone into the hands of terrorists. I cannot, Sir, comment on newspaper reports. There is no confirmed report of that nature. If the hon. Member brings to my notice any particular case, then I will certainly request the Ministry of Defence to look into this. But the source is smuggling of arms and infiltration of arms by trained personnel crossing over from Pakistan into India. Because the smuggling has increased during the last three months, the flow of arms has also escalated and that is the reason why there is an increase in the number of killings. As regards the political aspects, these have been debated several times in this House. It would not be possible for me to enter into a debate in the space of an answer. But the problems are well identified. The Punjab accord is not dead. This Government is committed to implement the Punjab accord. We are also trying to find out if any political leadership will emerge in Punjab which can enjoy the confidence of the people. Today that leadership is not very visible. Therefore the search goes on, the dialogue goes on. I do not think it is correct to say that the political aspect has been relegated to the background. We are trying to see what all is possible and we are also keeping the political aspects in view constantly.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the immediate result of any killing by the terrorists in Punjab is the

large scale migration from the affected villages. And this is the avowed object of the terrorists there. Contrary to various proclamations by the authorities I am sorry to say that very little is done to help the victims. A young widow who is not able to collect the ashes of her husband is asked by the Deputy Commissioner concerned to return to the village, bring the post mortem report and various other formalities duly completed before she applies for some assistance. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the precise number of cases which have been given such assistance during the last two months.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I do not have the figures of people who have been given assistance in respect of migration from one place in Punjab to another place in Punjab. The question did not deal with that. I will collect information in respect of internal migration and I will furnish it to the Member as well as place it on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yashwant Sinha.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I have not asked the question.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, Mr. Sinha is here. He is the originator of the word Sinhala. All Sinhalese are from Bihar.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I must confess my utter disappointment at the reply which the Home Minister has given to this question. This is a kind of a reply which one does not expect from the Home Minister of the country. It is a kind of reply...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put the question.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, political aspects of the question have been referred to in the reply which the Minister has given. I recall and many Members present in the House will recall that in November last year the President of the Janata Party, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, had paid a visit to Amritsar in a very routine way. He visited the Golden Temple.

There, some of the high priests who were present, expressed a desire to meet him, and he went to see them. He had a brief discussion. This was carried in the newspapers. When he came back, I remember, he was roundly taken to task by the Home Minister who alleged that Mr. Chandra Shekhar had gone to Amritsar, and specially to the Golden Temple and he had met the high priests with a specific intention of inciting them to violence and to aid and abet terrorism in Punjab. Now, the same afternoon, the high priests were arrested suddenly and equally suddenly they were released a few months later. Mr. Badal and Mr. Tohra were arrested. Mr. Badal has been released while Mr. Tohra is still in jail. My specific question is, what are the ingredients of the political aspects, or the political policy which the Government has towards Punjab problem, and how do these contradictory elements—there are many more which I am not recounting—fit in the overall situation and the overall strategy in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): The hon. Member is new to the functioning of this House. Therefore, he is finding Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors in the form of Ministers. I welcome the interest and his serious concern in the situation prevalent in Punjab. The hon. Member was present when Shri Chandra Shekhar went to the Golden Temple. What I reacted to was his statement the next day which appeared in the press. I expected that Shri Chandra Shekhar will at least denounce terrorism and the use of violence, and also will give us some picture of the situation. The picture that he gave us was that inside the Golden Temple there is no terrorist; there is no weapon... (Interruptions).

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: This is a total * Neither Mr. Chandra Shekhar ever said it nor I ever said it. But this is the disinformation that they have learnt from their partners across, from the Soviet Union.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: He is always in the U.S. ... (Interruptions).

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: This should go out of the record. This is irresponsible... (Interruptions). That should go off the record; otherwise you have to appoint a committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The word you had used is unparliamentary and I expunge it.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: How did he say about the Soviet Union? This is most unfortunate... (Interruptions).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We denounce his way of taking things about the Soviet Union. It has no relevance. It is deplorable absolutely... (Interruptions). He must know how to behave.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: What Mr. Mohanan had said must go out of the record... (Interruptions).

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Why did he say about the Soviet Union?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This gentleman is taking too much of liberty in the House. We will not allow him. He must know how to speak... (Interruptions). I want your ruling, Sir. People cannot be allowed to misuse Parliamentary form the way he is doing. It is too much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The first thing is that the word you used is unparliamentary. (Interruptions). Secondly, I think, when the Question Hour is there and the person is not questioning, he should be doubly careful. Otherwise also, it is not the tradition of any Parliament worth the name that we cast aspersions, wholesale aspersions, on Members and political parties as such.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: And friendly countries. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has always been the practice, and in some countries it is a rule also, that we do not bring in another country especially at this juncture when both the countries are trying to reach an agreement towards peace. We should

not do anything which jeopardises that particular attempt towards peace. (Interruptions)** Anything spoken without my permission will not go on record. (Interruptions)** I am not permitting. So objections does not come in. (Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I was trying to complete the answer to the supplementary by hon. Yashwant Sinha. The criticism that I made of Shri Chandrashekhar's Express Interview, which appeared the next day in the press, holds good even today. I expected Shri Chandrashekhar to take notice of what is going on inside the temple and also if he could give a piece of advice to those priests with whom he had a closed door meeting, that first of all they must come down heavily on the killing of innocent people, especially in the name of religion. That did not appear in the press. That is why I criticised the statement. I think I have done my duty, saying that all leaders, especially those leaders, who are always been to have political solution to this problem, must start with it that separatism in Punjab can never be tolerated, innocent people should not be killed and religious places should not be used for political purposes. These are the parameters and this is precisely what we mean by the political solution.

Hon. Prime Minister has gone on record many a time that political solution must be within the framework of the Constitution of India and must mean complete giving up of violence in public life. We are willing. Our doors are open. We are willing to talk to anybody accepting these parameters. This is the perception of the Government. I am sure Shri Yashwant Sinha will agree with me and also try his influence in the Janata Party to bring his people round.

But, Sir, Shri Swamy is an old friend of mine. He is a Parliamentarian. I could never think that he will not use the head-phone. I never used his name. I do not know how out of the blue...

**Not recorded.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

The people behind you said that I had said there are no arms in the Golden Temple. That is totally untrue.

I never said that. (Interruptions). You people have been saying it (Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH: By now I have become immune to all kinds of abuses, but for heaven's sake don't abuse a friendly country the Soviet Union, which is a great friend of our people.

*22. [The questioner (Shri Kalpnath Rai) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 232 infra].

Import of sunflower oil by STC

*23. **SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:**†

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has recently switched over from palm oil palmolein imports to sunflower oil imports;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that STC has placed orders with foreign companies for the supply of raw sunflower oil; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Import of edible oil is canalised through State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC). STC imports several varieties of edible oil including soyabean oil, neutralised palm oil, refined

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhagatram Manhar.