

and the Excise Commissioner must be put into concrete measures before 31st March, 1987.

REFERENCE TO THE MYSTERIOUS BALLOON CRASH IN BHOPAL

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA (Delhi): Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring to your notice an important matter. Balloons are generally a very safe mode of transport, but you may have come across press reports of a balloon-crash in Bhopal. It crashed in a very mysterious way. When a balloon is flown or launched by unauthorised persons filled with Hydrogen gas, it becomes a dangerous machine. In this case, it appears, the mystery is deeper because a key witness of the gas 'victims' case was asked to go on the rope of the balloon to take the flight. Now, this is never done. People travel in baskets under the balloon. In this case, this was done, perhaps, with the idea that he would be injured. I understand, the person, one Mr. Sunil Kumar, is in the hospital.

Sir, there are two or three matters in this regard which are mysterious. One is, whether this flight was authorised by the Civil Aviation Department. Secondly, whether the gas used and the balloon material used were of a safe kind, and it is not clear whether this was a manned balloon or an unmanned balloon. It is also not clear what is the purpose of the flight because it is said that his was a research expedition. Now, I do not see how seismic studies could be made while you are flying a balloon. In India, a lot of balloons are launched by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. These Hydrogen balloons give a lot of data for research and so on. But here it is a kind of unauthorised activity and ballooning in which even a foreigner who was suspected of being a spy or who was arrested for being a spy was also involved. I would request the Government to find out the actual details in this case and also find out whether this kind of activity can be prevented and only safe ballooning is allowed in this country. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

I. Incidents in Delhi on 5th December, 1986

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): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Guru Teg Bahadur martyrdom day is traditionally observed by taking out a procession from Gurdwara Sis Ganj to Gurdwara Rakabgauj. Since tension prevailed in the Chandni Chowk after the incidents of 2nd December, 1986, the organisers of the procession in their discussions with the Delhi Administration on the night of 4th December, 1986 agreed not to take out any procession from Gurdwara Sis Ganj. Consequently curfew was also imposed in the Chandni Chowk area from 7.00 A.M. on 5th December, 1986. However, later in the morning of 5th December the organisers insisted on taking out the procession and the Delhi Administration keeping in view the religious sentiments agreed to allow a symbolic procession for which an alternate route was worked out by the Delhi Police in consultation with the organisers.

When the procession started forming at about noon, a large number of people started collecting from all sides of Chandni Chowk and indulged in heavy brickbattling and stone throwing. The Police, however, managed to disperse the violent mob. In the process of dispersing the crowd and providing clear passage to the processionists police had to first resort to lathi-charge at three places and later thirteen rounds were fired as warning shots.

At about 2.25 P.M. when the procession was fully formed and was about to move towards Red Fort, a crowd again started forming. The Police arrangements enabled the procession to move without hindrance.

Meanwhile, a few hundred persons collected inside the Gurdwara Bangla Sahib for taking out the martyrdom procession. The Police persuaded them to take out the procession from Bangla Sahib to Gurdwara Rakab Ganj, which is a short distance, without waiting for the main

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

procession from Gurdwara Sis Ganj as the progress of the main procession was very slow. When the procession reached near Gole dakhana at about 3.00 P.M., two persons on a motorcycle are reported to have told the processionists that two Sikhs had been killed in Police firing near the Red Fort. This inflamed the processionists and they ran back to the Gurdwara Bangla Sahib and started pelting stones on the vehicles passing by. The Police used tear gas and the situation was brought under control.

At about 3.15 P.M., a truck driven by a young man came out of the Gurdwara and ploughed into a CRPF picket, which was stationed on the outer ring of the round-about. 3 CRPF personnel and one occupant of the vehicle were killed in this incident. The situation again took an ugly turn and the Police had to use tear gas and resort to firing. Two more persons were killed bringing the total number to six. 28 persons including 18 police officers, were injured. One Sub-Inspector received gun shot injuries.

The procession from Bangla Sahib was safely escorted to Gurdwara Rakabganj where it terminated at about 6.00 P.M.

A Magisterial inquiry into the incidents of violence around Gurdwara Bangla Sahib has been ordered by the Lt. Governor, Delhi. The inquiry will determine the facts including the sequence of events leading to the incidents of violence resulting in the death and injuries to police personnel and others and will also fix responsibility for the incidents. 3 cases of rioting and 1 case of murder have already been registered in connection with the above incidents. 61 persons were arrested in these 4 cases on the same day.

Curfew which was imposed in the Chandni Chowk area on the morning of 5th December, 1986 was relaxed for two hours on 6th and five hours on 7th December, 1986. Curfew was also clamped around Gurdwara Bangla Sahib on the evening of 5th December and around Gurdwara Rakabganj on the night of 5th/6th December, 1986. Curfew has now been withdrawn from all the areas.

The situation is still tense but is fully under control. The Police is intensively

patrolling the city and maintaining very strict vigil. The Army was positioned in sensitive areas of West and East Delhi as a stand-by measure on 6th and 7th, but it has since been withdrawn.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation for the cooperation and restraint shown by all sections of the society. Because of this, the Delhi Administration was able to contain the situation and to bring it quickly under control. I am confident that this active support will always be forthcoming in order to maintain peace and tranquility in the capital and I would also appeal to the Hon'ble Members of this august House for their continued support in this direction.

It is a matter of deep regret that three brave men of CRPF were killed while performing their duties. It is also regretted that three more lives were lost in the incidents of 5th December, 1986. The House would, I am sure, like to join me in extending our deepest sympathies to the families of those who died in the unfortunate incidents.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य-प्रदेश) : सभापति जी, आज हम पंजाब के बारे में नहीं, दिल्ली के बारे में गृह राज्य-मंत्री से बयान सुन रहे हैं। दिल्ली भारत की राजधानी है, केन्द्र-शासित प्रदेश है। दिल्ली में कानून-व्यवस्था को बनाए रखने के लिए केन्द्र-सरकार सीधी जिम्मेदार है। दिल्ली में जो हिंसात्मक घटनाएँ हुई हैं, उनके लिये केन्द्र सरकार अब किसी और को और दोषी नहीं ठहरा सकती।

सभापति महोदय, सबसे पहले तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ, सात आदमी मरे हैं, फौज बुलानी पड़ी, सी०आर०पी० के तीन जवान ट्रक से कुचलकर मार दिए गए, सी०आर०पी० और पुलिस मुठभेड़ की नौबत आ गयी, गुरु तेगबहादुर के बलिदान दिवस के अवसर पर ऐतिहासिक गुरुद्वारों के आसपास कर्फ्यू लगाना पड़ा, इस विफलता के लिये क्या सरकार में कोई जिम्मेदारी लेने को तैयार है? क्या किसी ने इस मामले में अपना इस्तीफा दिया है या इस्तीफा देने की पेशकश की है, गृह मंत्री महोदय, गृह-राज्य मंत्री महोदय, लेफ्टिनेंट गवर्नर, दिल्ली के पुलिस कमिश्नर ने?

सी० आर० पी० के जवान जिस तरह मे आन्दोलित हुए और आन्दोलित होने के बाद जिस तरह से उन्होंने आचरण किया, क्या उसके लिये सी० आर० पी० का कोई अफसर जिम्मेदारी लेने को तैयार नहीं है ?

फ्रांस में शिक्षा की नीति को लेकर थोड़ा सा आन्दोलन हुआ, विद्यार्थी सड़कों पर निकल आये तो शिक्षा मंत्री ने अपना इस्तीफा पेश कर दिया। यहां कोई अपना इस्तीफा देने के लिये तैयार नहीं, कोई जिम्मेदारी लेने के लिये तैयार नहीं।

सभापति महोदय, अब मैं प्रश्न पूछता हूँ चांदनी चौक में दुबारा कर्फ्यू क्यों लगाया। बन्द के दिन शाम को वहां कुछ लोग इकट्ठे होने लगे थे। और भारतीय जनता पार्टी के सदस्यों की ओर से सुझाव दिया गया कि इस स्थिति को टालना है, वहां स्थिति अस्थिर रूप ले सकती है, इसलिए वहां कर्फ्यू लगा दिया जाय। कर्फ्यू लगाया गया, प्रशासन ने बात सुनी और मामला शान्त हो गया। जिस दिन शहीदी दिवस मनाया जाना था, मैंने सुना है और मैं चाहूंगा कि चिदम्बरम जी इस बात पर प्रकाश डालें, लेफ्टिनेंट गवर्नर के यहां रात के डेढ़ बजे तक मीटिंग हुई कि यह जुलूस निकले या न निकले। फिर सोचा गया कि जुलूस अगर रोकना है तो उसका तरीका यह है कि कर्फ्यू लगा दिया जाये।

उस दिन कर्फ्यू लगाना अनावश्यक था, कर्फ्यू लगाना एक भड़काने वाला कार्य-वाही थी। सरकार ने अपना निकम्मापन स्विकार कर लिया। शीशगंज गुरुद्वारा, जहां गुरु तेगबहादुर जी का बलिदान हुआ, वह एक ऐतिहासिक स्थल है, जो लोगों की भावनाओं के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है, क्या आप उस दिन गुरुद्वारे में लोगों को नहीं जाने देंगे? अगर आप शांतिपूर्ण लोगों के वहां जाने का प्रबंध नहीं कर सकते, तो आप इस देश पर शासन करने के लायक नहीं हैं। लेकिन फैसला किया गया कि कर्फ्यू लगा दिया जाये। मगर उस फैसले पर भी दृढ़ता से अमल नहीं किया गया। फिर शासन में पुनर्विचार हुआ।

सभापति महोदय, पता नहीं दिल्ली के फैसले कहाँ होते हैं—लेफ्टिनेंट गवर्नर के यहाँ होते हैं या गृह मंत्रालय में होते हैं या प्रधानमंत्री के सचिवालय में होते हैं? दिल्ली का कोई वली-बारिस नहीं है, कोई पुरसाहाल नहीं है। यह फैसला कर दिया गया कि लोगों को जाने दो। अब अगर जाने का इजाजत दी गयी थी तो वे लोग गुरुद्वारे में इकट्ठे न हो जायें, वापस आ जायें, इस बात का भी प्रबंध करना चाहिए था।

फिर तय हुआ कि जुलूस को निकलने दिया जाये, मगर किस रास्ते से निकलने दिया जाये, इसके बारे में हमारे सिख मित्रों के तीन गुट अलग-अलग दावा कर रहे हैं, वे अलग-अलग निर्देश बता रहे हैं। कहते हैं, एक को परमीशन मिली थी कि पुराने रास्ते से चले जाओ, दूसरे से कहा गया कि मेटाडोर में गुरु ग्रंथसाहिब को रखो और छोटे से जुलूस के रूप में ले जाओ, तीसरे से कहा गया कि आप दरियागंज से होकर जा सकते हो। इतनी अमूर्ण स्थिति थी। स्पष्ट निर्देश क्यों नहीं थे। किस रास्ते से जुलूस को जाने का इजाजत दी गयी गृह मंत्री ने अपने व्यान में माना कि

It is reported. Reported by whom? We want authentic information from the Government. Two persons on a motor-cycle are reported to have told...

यह अफवाह फैली, यह बात सच है। अफवाह यह भी थी कि जो पांच ग्यारे थे उन में से किसी को चोट लगी है। पहले से लोग उत्तेजित थे जो बंगला साहब में इकट्ठे थे या रक्षागंज गुरुद्वारे में इकट्ठे थे। जब उनको यह खबर मिली, इस खबर का तत्काल खंडन क्यों नहीं किया गया? सरकार के पास इतने साधन सशक्त हैं। क्या इन अफवाहों का खंडन नहीं किया जा सकता था? वह दो युवक कौन थे?

ट्रक की बात कही गई है। सभापति जी, समाचार पत्र देखिये, मैंने प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों से बात की है, वह ट्रक कहीं आसमान से नहीं आया, वह ट्रक दिल्ली की सड़कों पर पहले से घूम रहा था। जिस ट्रक से सी० आर०

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

पो० के जवान कुचल कर मार डाले गये वह ट्रक दिल्ली की सड़कों पर पहले से घूम रहा था। वह लाल बस्ती पर भी रुकता नहीं था। उस ट्रक पर आपत्ति का गई थी। दिल्ली की पुलिस ने उस ट्रक पर पहले नियंत्रण क्यों नहीं लगाया? वह आत्मवाती ट्रक था। यह आतंकवाद का एक नया आगम है। उन्माद में भरे हुए नौजवान इस तरह ट्रक में बैठ कर भाड़ को कुचल सकते थे। उन्होंने सी०आर०पी० के जवानों को अपना निशाना बनाया। उस ट्रक में डायनामाइट हो सकता था। मगर स्थिति विगड़ने दी गई।

कौन ट्रक कहाँ खड़ा है, कैसे खड़ा है, उस ट्रक के बारे में क्या जाता है कि वह ट्रक लगातार घूम रहा था। क्या यह किसी ने देखा। दिल्ली पुलिस और सी०आर०पी० में जो कुछ हुआ है वह खतरे की घंटी है। दोनों को अनुशासन में रहना चाहिये। कितनी बड़ी उत्तेजना भरी हो, अपने ऊपर संयम रखना चाहिये। अब दिल्ली पुलिस के अफसर सफाई दे रहे हैं कि नहीं, नहीं सी०आर०पी० ने दुर्व्यवहार किया मगर हम रीपिटार्ड नहीं की। अब पिटाई तक नीबत आ गई है यह बीमारी कहाँ ले जाएंगे?

यह पहला मौका नहीं है जब दिल्ली में निर्णय न करने का स्थिति के कारण गड़बड़ हुई है। रामलीला के समय भी ऐसा हुआ था। पहले फैसला कर दिया कि जुलूस नहीं निकलेगा, लोगों ने हड़ताल की, आंदोलन किया, रामलीला नहीं मनेगी, इसका संकल्प किया तो कह दिया कि रामलीला जुलूस जा सकता है। क्या बातें दबाव में मानी जायेगी? क्या केन्द्र दूर-दशिता से फैसला नहीं कर सकता है? क्या दिल्ली के प्रशासन को क्लोयर डाइरेक्टिव नहीं दिये जा सकते हैं?

सदन में गृह मंत्री जी को होना चाहिए था, हमें गृह मंत्री की भूमिका के बारे में सवाल पछने हैं। ले० गवर्नर से अगर बात की जाये तो वे कहते हैं कि हमें केन्द्र से जो आदेश मिलते हैं हम उनका पालन करते हैं। केन्द्र से आदेश कौन देता है। हमारे चिदम्बरम जी खाली स्टेटमेंट देने तक इस दिल्ली के मामले से जुड़े हुए हैं

या इससे आगे भी कुछ उनकी भूमिका है मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली में यह गोल-माल कब तक चलता रहेगा? आप अगर दिल्ली में कानून व्यवस्था की रक्षा नहीं कर सकते हैं, निर्दोष लोगों को नहीं बचा सकते, सी०आर०पी० के जवानों को कुचलने से नहीं रोक सकते हैं तो आप किस मुंह से पंजाब या अन्य प्रदेशों की सरकारों से कहेंगे कि कानून और व्यवस्था का दृढ़ता से पालन करके दिखाये। मैं फिर, सभापति महोदय से दोहराना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली के इस हत्याकांड के लिए किसी को तो जिम्मेदारी लेनी चाहिए, मैं इस्तीफा मांग नहीं रहा हूँ मगर किसी को इस्तीफा देना जरूर चाहिए।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like to seek two clarifications from the Honourable Minister.

Sir, I would like to submit that the fire and flames in the minds and hearts of the people of our country about the brutal killings in Punjab have not so far been extinguished and now this killing has taken place in the capital, in Delhi itself. The honourable Minister has stated in the first paragraph of his statement, "However, later in the morning of 5th December the 'organisers insisted on taking out the procession and the Delhi Administration keeping in view the religious sentiments agreed to allow a symbolic procession...' The honourable Minister says, 'a symbolic procession...' Sir, a procession is always a procession and the people of Delhi are living in a situation which is actually tense. What is the report of the Intelligence Bureau about the procession? Have they given any advance information that if the procession was taken out there would be disturbances in the localities? I would like to have categorical information from the honourable Minister whether the Administration should not have avoided the procession by not giving them permission.

Secondly, it is reported in the press that two youth got into a truck and drove it towards Baba Kharak Singh Marg, swerved a bit and drove to a parking lot. Then, at about 5.15 P. M. the truck started out

again, took two fast rounds of the round-about of Gola Dak Khana and turned faster into Baba Kharak Singh Marg. Then suddenly it swung straight into the CRPF men. The honourable Minister has stated in para 5 of his statement that "At about 3.15 P.M., a truck driven by a young man..." He says, "A young man." So, only one was present in the truck. To continue, "...came out of the Gurdwara and ploughed into a CRPF picket, which was stationed on the outer ring of the round-about." I would like to know whether the truck was driven twice before and, if so, why it was allowed to move because the situation was tense and these people were driving the truck. Then why did the CRPF men allow the truck to move? Then, in the last part of the paragraph he says, "One Sub-Inspector received gun shot injuries." He also said, "Twenty-eight persons, including eighteen police officers, were injured." I want to know whether these gun shots came from the CRPF men or from persons who were in the procession.

I would like to get these two clarifications from the honourable Minister. Thank you.

SHRI NIRMAL CRATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, let us mourn the personnel of the CRPF and those who were killed on that date.

This is a statement on the incidents in Delhi. I rather call these as incidents in India. On the same day 13 people were killed in Tripura. On the same day some died in the Darjeeling District of West Bengal.

All this indicates that India is under attack. And India is under attack means, not any particular community in India is under attack. I would like to salute the Delhi Administration and the Government and the people of each community in the country because what is happening is, let us not mistake, let us not overlook, that Sikhs are being killed by Sikhs, tribals are being killed by tribals, Nepali Gorkhas are being killed by Nepali Gorkhas. The Indian people have refused to fall into the trap of a communal divide. It is this on which we must bank in order to fight the

enemies of India. It must be that highest sense of responsibility that must be displayed by both sides of the House. I certainly want to recognise the fact that what happened on the morrow of 31st of October in a year did not happen in Delhi this year.

There were vacillations. I will ask anyone whether under the charged situation it is that easy to take a decision. Is it not a situation in which many alternatives have to be thought about before arriving at a decision? I will also ask all Members, both of the ruling party and the Opposition whether the solution lies in asking for resignations. It is not a question of intention only. We have to understand that. I do not say anybody is communally motivated. But it is not a question of intentions only. Let us be candid about it. How we appear, how our action appear before the country is what we have to take into account. Any false step at this juncture, we should not take. We must imagine what the juncture is, the desperation involved in that truck. We have to think about its intensity. The terrorists have arrived. They are attacking the country itself, not Hindus, not Muslims but the whole of the country. We have to think at what level of desperation they have reached. They have entered into a suicide pact. We have to take this into account while seeking clarifications from the Government.

Sir, what I do not still appreciate is this. In the context of this, Mr. Chairman, you will permit me to say, I do not believe there is any short-term solution. But I do believe that certain things need to be done in the short run which will lead to a long-term solution, which alone can lead to a long-term solution. What I really regret is that in taking the short-term steps the Government is not still full throated, the Government still is not fully seized of the problem. Narrow considerations of parties are dominating, and not political considerations of the country as a whole.

I appeal to the ruling party and to each party of the Opposition to rise above the narrow party considerations to take into account the total political considerations evident in the situation itself. I will not go

[Shri Nirmal Chatterjee]

into the details about the steps that you have taken in regard to the Punjab situation, but I just want to underline that many more short-run steps are necessary. If the Government, in its wisdom, cannot seize upon them, then, even in the long run, it will be an extremely and an indefinitely long run and all of us will be losers.

Now, I come to the specific clarifications. Do the Government still not see a vicious plan? On an earlier occasion I sent a chit to the Chair, which, perhaps, did not reach him. We forget that it was not only in Delhi, but on the same day, thirteen people were killed in Tripura also. Do, the Government not see a pattern? On the same day there was a news item—I don't know whether it is a fact or not—that Gorkhaland people are being trained somewhere in South India. Do they not see a design? Do they not feel it a duty to enlighten our countrymen about the design of the whole thing and mobilise the people so that we can unite and fight against the enemies who are trying to divide our country? I consider this is a serious lacuna in the Government. The Government should immediately clarify all the questions that come before it.

Shri Vajpayee has raised the question that the trucks were moving round and why were they not detected? I am not complaining against the Delhi police. I think for once they have behaved well, for once they have behaved better than they did in the past. Let the House recognise that. But there is no mention of the fact that the surgeons in the Medical Institute said that there were gun-shot injuries on the CRPF personnel. But the Minister did not clarify on that. The entire country reads newspapers and wants to know what exactly had happened. Let no truth be hidden from our countrymen. We want to know from the Government about what had actually happened.

I also want to seek one more clarification. Why did our intelligence fail?

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no intelligence at all.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Apart from what the Delhi police did, there is one more question. Does it not require revamping in the intelligence machinery? This happened in Delhi. I know, we have functioned during the British days, unless you can reach in the people of all communities your intelligence also fails. We did elude the British during our Independence battle days. The intelligence, therefore, I believe, has to be revamped in this sense also. It is in this context that I want to reiterate—although that is not an issue—that in Punjab also our moves should be quiet since they are delicate. Therefore, all the demands that were raised about the resignation of Barnala Government should be forthwith given up.

I want clarification on this point also. What do you mean by 'the situation is tense, but is fully under control'. Do not make such claims. If you do that you will undermine the confidence of the people in the strength and in the ability of the machinery. I want to understand what exactly do you mean by the situation is under full control of yours'.

The other question that I want to raise is: what were your considerations and understanding of first not allowing and then allowing what was the kind of thought that presented in your mind? You must elaborate and explain to us so that we can understand the gravity of the matter. Thank you.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I am constrained to observe that this Government has no sense of shame. Sir, repeatedly the incidents in Delhi are being brought for discussion in this House. Every time, the Government of India assures us that everything is being done, law and order machinery has been streamlined and all security arrangements have been tightened. But we find repeatedly such incident are happening. We know their track record in Delhi and yet they have the temerity to blame the Punjab Government and other State Governments for not being able to maintain law and order in their States. If this is the record of the Central Government in the capital of this country, I do not know what would

be fate of the people in the rest of the country under the direction of this Government.

Sir, we all know that there was an explosive situation here and in spite of that this Government had failed to take adequate measure to control the situation and to prevent these incidents. The first point is when the situation was like that, somebody should have taken an overall control of the whole matter. But we find contradictory orders have been issued with regard to allowing the procession, which ultimately resulted in two processions being taken. Sometimes I wonder whether the union Home Ministry is controlling the law and order in Delhi or the Delhi Administration itself. As Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has said the Lt. Governor says that orders are being issued by the Home Ministry and the Home Ministry says that it is the direct responsibility of the Delhi Administration. So each is trying to pass the buck on to the other. Therefore, we want a clarification who is actually controlling the situation in Delhi? Who is responsible for the situation?

Sir, the newspapers reported that rumours led to these incidents. As has been rightly questioned, the police has got the public address system and they were following the processions and when they found some restiveness among the crowd, why they did not try to appeal to them over the system that there was no truth in those rumours and they should not get perturbed. Why that fundamental precaution was not taken what was the intelligence doing? Sir, such incidents generally do not happen on the spur of the moment. They are planned. We also know through the newspapers and through announcement by the Government itself, that some noted extremists are in Delhi. The Government itself has announced and warned the people. They should have taken more precautions, because among certain sections of the people they would incite such violence. That should have been anticipated and they should have cautioned the people and also the intelligence should have been more alert.

Sir, people who fled away from Punjab and came to Delhi and the victims of

November, 1984 riots in Delhi are causing continuous tension in the capital and the Government has not done anything so far to rehabilitate either of the two sections and also keep a watch on their activities. Therefore, it is high time that the Government clarifies as to what it is going to do to rehabilitate these two sections of the people.

Sir, these incidents bring to sharp focus the lack of discipline in the para military forces. A small incident might have led to the death of two or three constables, but still it should not have made them go mad to attack the people and indulge in that kind of violence. The lack of discipline among the para military forces requires serious attention.

Sir, then there is the fundamental question of allowing these processions. Repeatedly, we discussed this question, even in our informal talks with the Prime Minister, we suggested that such processions should be controlled, with the consent of all the religious groups; because most of these religious processions in various parts of the country are leading to clashes and violence and they are the biggest provocation for communal riots.

12.00 Noon

The time has come perhaps, to review whether such processions should be allowed unhindered or whether there should be a check on these things and for that, a consensus can be arrived at among all the religious groups.

Sir, finally, the hon. Minister said: a magisterial enquiry has been ordered. I do not know what purpose it would serve? I could have demanded a judicial enquiry but, Sir, having seen the fate of the reports of the Ranganath Mishra Commission and the Thakkar Commission, I doubt whether there is any efficacy for such a magisterial enquiry or whether there is any use in conducting such an enquiry because this Government has taken powers to suppress those reports from the eyes of the people and from the glare of the Parliament. There is no point in demanding those enquiries because the enquiry reports will not see the light of the day. Therefore, I do not

[Shri Paryathaneni Upendra]

stress on that point. But the Minister should explain as to what is the efficacy of this magisterial enquiry and what he wants to achieve by this enquiry? Sir, I want clarification on these three or four points.

श्री शरद यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, 5 दिसम्बर की जो घटना हुई उसके लिए मैं पूरी तरह से केन्द्रीय सरकार को दीखी ठहराता हूँ। सरकार को मालूम है कि इस देश में लोगों की भावनाएं धर्म के साथ बहुत ज्यादा जुड़ी हुई हैं। जैसा वाजपेयी ने कहा, रामलीला के जलूस के मामले में भी आपने उसी समय फैसला करने का काम किया, यानी निर्णय तब देते हैं जब प्रोसेशन खड़ा हो जाता है। तेग बहादुर जी के शहीदी दिवस पर जो जलूस निकलता था आपने सिर्फ चार तारीख से चर्चा करना शुरू किया और उसको आपने इकट्ठा बैठकर नहीं, किया, यानी बूटा सिंह जी, जो गृह मंत्री हैं, अपने घर में दरबार लगाए थे, पुलिस कमिश्नर अपने यहां दरबार लगाए थे और लेफ्टीनेंट गवर्नर अपने यहां दरबार लगाए थे। एक एक गुट जाता था वह कुछ फैसला करता था, दूसरा गुट जाता था वह कुछ फैसला करता था। हम लोग जानते हैं कि पंजाब की समस्या अकालीदल के अन्दर फूट से हुई। ये जो धर्म के नाम पर संगठन चलते हैं, इनमें इशारे करने वाले लोग तो हो सकते हैं, लेकिन ये पाखंडी लोग होते हैं। इनके चलते पंजाब की समस्या बिगड़ी है और इन्हीं लोगों को आपने बत्तकाल बुलाया। मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से और सरकार से कहता हूँ कि 8 दिन पहले शहीदी दिवस के जलूस के बारे में चर्चा शुरू करते और लोगों की मीटिंग बुलाते तो मेरा निश्चित माता है कि यह घटना रोकी जा सकती थी।

मान्यवर, मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली में यह बात इसलिए उठ जाती है क्योंकि दिल्ली में हम लोग रहते हैं और अपनी जान और सुरक्षा के प्रति ज्यादा सतर्क हैं, लेकिन पूरे देश में हालत बहुत बदतर है। जैसा हमारे माननीय सी पी एम

के साथी प्रो० चटर्जी ने कहा, पूरे देश में हालत खराब है। पंजाब में भी मौत है। एक जगह कर्नाटक में किसी ने धर्म के बारे में टिप्पणी कर दी, वहां चार आदमी मर गए। यह लोकतांत्रिक देश है, आदमी को सब बात करने का हक है। धर्म ने इस देश को पागल बना दिया है। सरकार के मंत्री और राजनीतिक पार्टियों लोगों को लगातार भड़काने का काम कर रहे हैं। कोई जलूस या जलसा होता है तो इस सरकार के मंत्री जाकर उसमें शरीक होते हैं, राष्ट्रपति और प्रधान मंत्री चादर चढ़ाते हैं। हम लोग धार्मिक भावनाओं को भड़काने का काम करते हैं। नवम्बर में जो कत्लेआम हुआ उसी की आग से जलता हुआ परमजीत था जो राजीव की गोली मारने गया था। हमारे वहां के लोगों के सोचने में गलती होती है। हम उसको कह रहे हैं मरण दस्ता। 15 साल का नौजवान विजनीर से भगाया गया, उसके दिल में जलन थी, वह जलन भड़क गयी जब उसने सुना कि लाल किले पर गोली चल गयी। और अफवाहों का बाजार गर्म था। देश में जो शहरीकरण हो रहा है उस के चलते आप से दिल्ली मैनेज नहीं हो सकती। दिल्ली में कोई कानून का राज नहीं लगता। मैं उस दिन पार्लियामेंट से जा रहा था तो सी आर पी वहां खड़ी थी और आंदोलन करने वाले लोग वहां बगे फसाद में लगी हुए थे। वे वहां लूट पाट कर रहे थे और बंगलासाहब गुरद्वारे में धर्म के मामले में लोग पागल थे कि हमें भी तेगबहादुर बनाई। ऐसा पागलपन का उन में उत्पन्न था। यह जो दिल्ली आपने इतनी बड़ा दी है, यह बेरोजगारी के चलते, गरीबी के चलते अनियंत्रित हो गयी है। यदि रखिये आप को सुरक्षित तौर पर राज करना नहीं आता। इस लोकसभा के दरवाजे पर पुलिस खड़ी थी मगर सी आर पी के लोग अगर तय कर लेते तो लोक सभा में बैठे लोग बच नहीं सकते थे। आज देश में बहुत गम्भीर हालत है और मेरा कहना है कि यह सरकार पूरी तरह असफल हुई है। इस सरकार के गलत निर्णयों और कामों के नतीजे के कारण यह पंजाब की समस्या बिगड़ी है और उस बिगड़ी हुई आग का

नतीजा 5 दिसम्बर को दिल्ली में देखने को मिला था। तेगबहादर का प्रोसेशन निकलना था तो 8 दिन पहले से उसका इंतजाम क्यों नहीं किया गया। आज धर्म के नाम पर राम के साथ लोग जुड़े हुए हैं। आप किसी जलूस आदि के लिये 8 दिन पहले से तैयारी क्यों नहीं करते। अगर पहले मीटिंग बुलायी होती तो आप को पता चल जाता कि बूटा सिंह को क्या राजनीति है, रिछपाल सिंह को क्या राजनीति है, बादल को क्या राजनीति है और अपनी राजनीति को सफल बनाने के लिये अकाली दल के लोग रात दिन लगे हुए हैं और उन के हाथ इस लिये मजबूत हो गये कि आप के पास कोई इंतजाम नहीं था। आप करफ्यू लगाते हैं, फिर करफ्यू हटाते हैं, फिर करफ्यू लगाते हैं, फिर पुलिस से लाठी चलवाते हैं, फिर जलूस को एलाऊ करते हैं। तो मेरा कहना है कि इस सरकार के चले हो यह अशांति का स्थिति यहाँ पैदा हुई और इस को अदूरदृष्टिता का ही नतीजा था कि यहाँ इस तरह के हालात पैदा हुए। तो मेरा सवाल है कि क्या आप आइन्दा जो जलूस निकलेंगे धार्मिक जलूस होंगे उन के लिये क्या आप 8 दिन पहले से तैयारी करेंगे? क्या आप पहले से उस के लिये अपना मानस तैयार करेंगे और उस तैयारी में पुलिस के लोगों पर निर्भर न रह कर राजनीतिक पार्टियों से सलाह माशविरा करेंगे। आप की जो सीआईडी है, आप की जो इंटेलिजेंस है उसे आप के भ्रष्टाचारी तौर तरीकों ने निकम्मा और बेकार कर दिया है। उन की सूचना बेकार होती है। उस दिन अगर इस प्रोसेशन को निकलने देते तो कोई गड़बड़ी नहीं होती। इंतजाम और ज्यादा करना पड़ता। आप को किसी प्रोसेशन का इंतजाम करना हो आप बी जे पी से, जनता पार्टी से, लोक दल से बात करिये। सब पार्टियां चाहती हैं कि यह प्रोसेशन निकले। अगर आप सारे विरोधी दलों से बात कर लेते तो यह स्थिति नहीं आती। मैं फिर कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर जलूस का मामला हो तो 8 दिन पहले सारे विरोधी दलों को बुला कर बात कर के तैयारी करिये क्योंकि

आज सारा देश धार्मिक उन्माद में फसा हुआ है और उस के चलते बर्बाद हो रहा है और बर्बादी के कगार पर है। उस को बढ़ाने का काम आप कर रहे हैं। तो मेरा सुझाव है कि आप 8 दिन पहले से तैयारी करिये, राजनीतिक दलों से बात करिये और तीसरी बात यह कि आप को पूरे देश की परिस्थिति को देखना चाहिए। मेरा कहना है कि राज आप से नहीं होगा। लोगों ने आप को पंजाब की समस्या को हल करने के लिये वोट दिया था। मेरा साफ कहना है कि पंजाब की समस्या का समाधान आप कतई नहीं कर सकते। उसमें आप विफल रहे हैं, असफल रहे हैं। आप को इस लिये इस्तीफा देना चाहिये और मध्यावधि चुनाव कराना चाहिए देश में और जनता को फिर से फंसाने का अधिकार देना चाहिए आप को इस्तीफा देना चाहिए, सरकार को इस्तीफा देना चाहिए और देश में फिर से मध्यावधि चुनाव कराये जानें चाहिए इसलिये कि आप की सरकार निकम्मा है और उस के चलते पूरा देश दंगे फसाद और कानून व्यवस्था के झगड़े में फंस गया है।

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA
(Punjab): Mr. President, Sir....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, it is the Chairman here.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:
Mr. Chairman, Sir, may be, the coming events cast their shadows beforehand...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let them cast their shadows when they come, not before.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:
Sir, I would like to express my grief and regret at the happening on the 5th December. I extend my deepest sympathies to the families of those who died in the unfortunate incident. Having said this, I must also express my disapproval in the strongest possible terms of the manner in which the entire situation was handled on that fateful day. There is little doubt that very little anticipation was shown by those who were responsible for controlling the

[Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora]

situation. In 1984 when that carnage took place and I went to see the Home Minister on 1st November, I was horrified to see that no joint headquarters had been established to handle the situation by the afternoon of the 1st November. It appears that even in this case there was no single control organisation or no place where everybody could get together and decide. It was necessary for the Home Ministry to take the final decision. The Home Minister's office could have been the joint headquarters where decisions could have been made. It appears that this lesson had not been learnt. This procedure was laid down many decades ago. Whenever any such trouble was expected to arise or arose, there was always a central establishment from where control was exercised and the situation was handled. But we have not learnt that lesson in spite of what happened in 1984. It is normally said: orders, counter-orders and disorder. This is exactly what happened. Decisions were made. They were reversed. It was decided which route the procession was going to take. The decision was changed. It was decided to impose curfew. Then it was decided not to have curfew. If the people in authority cannot make up their mind or they feel that they do not have the final authority to make up their mind, how do you expect a situation not to go wrong and get out of hand? After that, when it was decided that a procession would be permitted to be taken, it was not fully appreciated what sort of arrangements should be made. Similarly when people in Gurdwara Bangla Sahib were getting restive why the procession not reached the place from where it was to go to Rakabganj Gurdwara, they were told you can take a procession from here. I do not know if it was a wise decision by the local authority without knowing what the situation was about the original procession which had already started. Then, having started it, I do not know what arrangements were made, because when they got this wrong information that people were shot dead during the police firing in, old Delhi, there was a total loss of control

by the police and the procession was permitted to get out of hand and come back to Bangla Sahib. Then the pelting of stones started. This really shows that the Police did not really expect any of these things to happen. They could have very well realised that as a result of the bandh on 2nd December a number of small incidents had taken place all over. A number of houses and vehicles were burnt. The situation was tense and could become explosive any time.

If enough thought had been given to this, much better arrangements could have been made to handle this procession.

The next thing is about this young man. I do not know whether he is 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is 15.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: That is what the newspapers say. But whatever the newspapers say is not the gospel truth. He got into a vehicle and he is supposed to have gone round the Gole Dak Khana twice and then he banged into the police posse or the CRP post where three people were unfortunately killed. Now the reports does not say so, but the papers say that at that time the CRPF practically ran amuck. Not only that. After that, there was trouble between the CRP and the police and there was beating up of the officers by the CRPF. This is a very sad state of affairs indeed. It shows a total lack of discipline. What is worse is, what we have read in the papers yesterday, that the Home Minister had to go and cajole these people to take their food. After what had happened, if the Home Minister had to go and cajole these people, are we really taking the right steps for maintaining discipline?

Sir, I personally feel that a judicial inquiry would possibly bring out the entire truth and also be much more capable of not being influenced by the powers that be who may be interested in this episode. I would like to demand a judicial inquiry and I hope that this judicial inquiry will not meet the same fate which the various commissions of inquiry set up in the recent past have met.

I would like to end up by saying once again, Sir, that we must learn some lessons from every happening and, in this case, I am sorry to observe that no lessons have been learnt by this administration from the happenings which have been occurring during the last three or four years because we always seem to get—I was going to use some other word which might not be quite parliamentary—caught unawares. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kadharsa.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the honourable Minister has not brought out the whole truth in his statement. He says that the curfew was clamped on the 5th December, 1986 from 7 A.M. But on why the curfew was lifted and again why it was imposed, why it was reimposed at midnight, he says nothing; he says nothing about this. Lifting of the curfew and reimposing of the curfew themselves speak a lot about the apathy of the administration in handling the situation.

Sir, when we raised the Punjab issue, the Government then told us that they do not have ample powers to interfere in the affairs of a State. But here in the heart of Delhi, where the Central Government has massive powers in its hands, it has miserably failed to control the situation. For quite some time, Sir, tension was brewing in Delhi, particularly after the merciless massacre of the bus passengers in Khuda village in Punjab. Migrants have come to Delhi and they have been settled in Delhi. But the Government has failed to take stock of the situation.

Sir, the honourable Minister says that responsibility will be fixed after the magisterial inquiry is over. On whom, I want to know. I want to know on whom the responsibility will be fixed. Will it be on the poor petty police officials or will it be on the Delhi Administration or will it be on the Lt. Governor of Delhi or will it be on the Home Minister himself? I do not know.

Sir, why was the martyr's day procession allowed when there was curfew. The people were allowed to assemble before Gurudare Sisganj till 11 A.M. on that particular day. There was curfew in that area. But

in spite of that curfew they were allowed to assemble. Only when the tension rose high the Lt. Governor and the Delhi Administration decided to allow the procession.

Here I would like to point out that all troubles come out of the processions, whether it is Martyrdom Day of the Sikhs or it is the Muharram Day in U.P., or it is Rathyatra in Ahmedabad and other places by the Hindus. Processions start the whole trouble. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister what decision the Government is going to take to entirely ban the processions or to control them in a proper way. The Government in its wisdom should have ably controlled. Otherwise if they are not able to control, they should not have allowed the Martyrdom Day procession in Delhi.

Secondly, Sir, as my colleagues pointed out, I would like to know whether the Government has received the *post mortem* report, because the newspapers say that only one of the CRPF jawan died on account of the speeding vehicle, and a bullet injury was seen on the face of a jawan and in the stomach of one Sub-Inspector. But the doctors are very much afraid even to give out their names. So I would like to know whether the *post mortem* report has come and, if so, what is the report of the medical experts.

And, then, Sir, it is not the first ever incident in Delhi. In the year 1983 itself there was a Nirankari procession in Delhi. At that time also there was a lot of trouble and three or four people were killed in the incident. So there is recurrence of such incidents. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister what long-term solution they are going to have. This seems to be a continuing effort. I am not demanding, as my friend demanded, that the Home Minister should resign, because it will not serve any useful purpose.

Sir, the thing is that we have to ably control the situation. It should not be allowed to go out of control. So what steps is the Government going to take, because the incident which happened was at a stone's throw from the VIP's from the Parliament House and from the President's residence?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have heard with great respect and attention to the points made by hon. Members and the clarifications sought by them on my statement. Sir, I am particularly grateful to hon. Member Shri Nirmal Chatterjee for sharing his concern with us and for a very lucid analysis of the situation and environment that we find ourselves in today.

Sir, the responsibility for maintaining law and order in Delhi indeed rests with the Central Government. It is the Ministry of Home Affairs which is ultimately responsible for law and order in Delhi. And the chain of command is quite clear and unambiguous. The Commissioner of Police, the Lt. Governor and, ultimately, the Ministry of Home Affairs are responsible for law and order, and the decisions taken in the last week and the decisions taken on the 5th of December 1986, were in no way contrary to the line and chain of command which I have just described.

Sir, I can understand a certain amount of anguish. In fact, such anguishment be shared by everybody. I would only ask you Mr. Chairman and through you this hon. House most humbly whether all those who today speak with a voice of righteous indignation are fully justified in making that kind of statement. Sir, in my view, there are two major factors which caused this incident. There is a proximate cause and there is a not-so-proximate cause. The not-so-proximate cause the genesis of the whole thing, was the *bandh* on the 2nd of December and the incidents which followed this *bandh*.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): You also withdrew the buses.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am answering. I am standing here. I am answering. I hope you will be a little patient and allow me to complete my statement. (*Interruptions*) I will be answer every single point if you will be kindly patient. I did not interrupt you. (*Interruptions*) I am not going to allow myself to be brow-beaten by your interference. I am standing here and I am answering every question. Who called this *bandh* and what happened on the 2nd and what

happened on the 3rd and what happened on the 4th? Sir, it is not as if we did not anticipate what was likely to happen. One hon. Member says why did we impose the curfew. Another hon. Member says why did we lift the curfew. Kindly see the sequence of events, Curfew was imposed on the 22nd of December at 9.00 P.M. in the North District of Delhi which comprises the area of Chandni Chowk.

After the *bandh* passed off with some incidents—and we all know who was responsible for this *bandh*—on the 3rd of December, curfew was relaxed for two hours in the morning and again for two hours in the afternoon so that the people could attend to their shopping needs, etc. On the 4th of December, there was no need to maintain curfew because curfew interferes with the people's daily life. Curfew was withdrawn on the 4th of December. We knew that Guru Purab would be celebrated on the 5th and 6th of December. The Lt. Governor of Delhi started marathon discussions with the people concerned with the procession. I can give the names of persons who participated and I am sure everybody recognises these names. Shri Ramoowalia, Member of Parliament, Shri J. S. Kalkaji, Shri Bakshj Jagdav Singh, Shri A.S. Kalkaji, Shri S. S. Gill and some other members of the Delhi S.G.P.C. met the Lt. Governor on the 4th of December, 1986. After several hours of discussion, everybody present agreed that the procession would not be taken out. But in order to create an atmosphere and a situation where the people will accept this position, a decision was taken at that meeting that curfew would be imposed on the morning of 5th December and a message will, therefore, go to the people that the curfew was there and we would have to abide by the curfew. Therefore, a procession would not be taken. That is why, as a consequence of that meeting, curfew was imposed on the 5th of December at 7.00 A.M. What happened thereafter is a matter of deep concern. The very same people once again started saying that this had never happened before; we have never had a Guru Purab without a procession and we must be allowed to take a procession. The Administration stood firm and said that a proces-

sion would not be allowed. After several hours of discussion, after the leaders of the community made representations and keeping in view the religious sentiments, what was allowed was a symbolic procession. Everybody who participated knew what was allowed. A symbolic procession was allowed in which the Bir of Guru Granth Sahib would be taken in a vehicle to Gurudwara Rakab Ganj followed by a few vehicles alone. That was what was agreed to. And let me say this, Sir, that the procession, that symbolic procession which started from Gurudwara Sis Ganj on the alternate route—and the alternate route was not the traditional route but Chandni Chowk, Subhas Marg, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, Sikindra Road, Feroz Shah Road, Raisina Road, Red Cross Road and Talkatora Road reaching Gurudwara Rakab Ganj—started peacefully. There was a minor disturbance, a minor problem when it reached the Red Fort, which was contained in a few minutes. It went through this route and reached Gurudwara Rakab Ganj without any incident. I am afraid, hon. Members have not quite seen the parts into which my statement falls. The symbolic procession which was allowed from Gurudwara Sis Ganj, which I admit contained more people eventually than what was originally planned for reached Gurudwara Rakab Ganj without any incident. There was no problem at all except a minor problem at about 2.30 P.M. near Red Fort which was very quickly contained. Now, what happened in Gurudwara Bangla Sahib is a totally different matter. Gurudwara Sis Ganj procession traditionally comes to Gurudwara Bangla Sahib and then goes to Gurudwara Rakab Ganj. But this time we said, no, that procession will not come to Gurudwara Bangla Sahib. Gurudwara Bangla Sahib was not under curfew. A lot of people had gathered at Gurudwara Bangla Sahib for prayers, and that was allowed. In Gurudwara Rakab Ganj. The distance is wanted to take a small procession to Gurudwara Rakab Ganj. The distance is very short, as every-one knows. There would have been no problem but for this proximate cause which I will mention presently. The police officials on the spot took a decision that the people who

had gathered in Gurudwara Bangla Sahib could be allowed to take a procession for a short distance and go to Gurudwara Rakab Ganj. But they were clearly told that "the main procession from Gurudwara Sis Ganj will not come to Gurudwara Bangla Sahib and that it is a very slow procession, it is not coming as fast as we thought it would and, therefore, you may go to Gurudwara Rakab Ganj". Even if we had not allowed a procession, we could not have stopped people going from Gurudwara Bangla Sahib to Gurudwara Rakab Ganj. They could have walked in two and threes or fours and fives, and they would have gone to the other Gurudwara which is nearby. What happened then is the proximate cause, and a matter of deep regret. It is reported, and at the moment I can only say that it is reported because it has to be verified.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Reported by whom?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That is what I am trying to say. I have not even completed my statement, Vajpayeeji. I am telling you ...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

You are repeating the same thing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You are not allowing me to complete my sentence, and you accuse me of repetition. It is reported—at the moment I can only say that it is reported—by persons present on the scene including the police officers that they saw two people on a motorcycle speeding towards the procession and there were some words exchanged, and many processionists turned back and went back to Gurudwara Bangla Sahib. Now, we think, and I think we are right in coming to that tentative conclusion, that some rumours were spread because there was some shouting that two people have been killed, and people ran back to Gurudwara Bangla Sahib. Immediately, on the loud speaker fitted to the police vans, it was broadcast that the procession from Gurudwara Sis Ganj was progressing very peacefully, there was no problem with that procession and therefore, people need

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

not run helter-skelter. But they were running back to the Gurudwara Bangla Sahib. At that time, the incident which I have described in paragraph 5 of my statement occurred. A truck which had at least three occupants—it is our information—driven by a young man came out of the Gurudwara and straight ploughed into a CRPF picket. It happened in a trice. Please do not go by what the newspapers say. I know at least one newspaper which said in column 1 that eight people were killed, and in column 2 it said that six people were killed. I am not blaming them. Two different correspondents are writing and with the pressure on time they print whatever is submitted to them. The truck, according to our information and according to the persons on the scene, came out of the Gurudwara and plunged straight into the CRPF picket. Nothing could have stopped the truck at that time. What stopped the truck was a wall. And, unfortunately, three brave men who were in the picket were crushed against the wall and they died there.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Why did not the police fire on the truck?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You are talking in the vacuum. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. No interference with the Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please do not make academic statements. When a truck plunges into a picket standing against a wall, there is no response time for anyone to fire on the truck. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ignore all interruptions.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Three CRPF men were killed. Some others escaped miraculously. They flung themselves away from the path of the truck.

Sir, then the situation took an ugly turn. At that time there was a certain amount of tension among the CRPF men.

But it is not correct to say that they roughed up anyone in the Delhi Police. I have spoken to the Additional Commissioner of Police who was present on the scene. He said that there was a certain amount of tension but nobody was roughed up. I am not defending it or explaining it. But I can understand that the tension would have been generated when a truck ploughs through a picket, when three men are killed. I am not explaining it and I am not defending it. I understand it and I am also asking the hon. House for understanding. But I reject the suggestion that there is indiscipline in the CRPF. The CRPF performed their role very creditably in Delhi. In fact, we have requests from many States that the CRPF people must be posted to take care of their life and property.

Sir, I think it is unfair, and I think it is not at all warranted by what happened, to blame the CRPF for indiscipline. They have performed very well and we intend to use the CRPF to protect the life and property in Delhi.

Sir, I know that newspapers have carried some reports to the effect that doctors were saying that CRPF personnel died of gunshot injuries. This is wrong. I wish the doctor wrote to me or telephoned me and told me that this is so. The truth is that three CRPF men were crushed by a truck which ploughed into the picket and they died on the spot. It is not correct to say that there were any gunshot or bullet injuries on the CRPF men.

Sir, I think I have answered all the questions which have been raised ...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Why did you allow the bandh...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not record anything.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in the last few days I have educated myself on the problems of the administration in Delhi. I have also educated myself on the politics of Delhi. Sir, there are two kinds of extremism. One is the extremism which gives rise to terrorism.

The other, I think, is the extremism of non-secular politics. When are we going to rid ourselves of non-secular politics? When are we going to look at the problems in a totally secular manner? It is very easy for people to stand up and say, let us ban the processions. But the very same people—I am not referring to any hon. Member—will come and plead for a procession when it is the procession of a certain community or the other. In fact, in the debate on the communal trouble in the last session we had made an offer that all processions should become symbolic and all communities must agree for some more years not to insist on processions, not to go on procession, but who is agreeing? We say, ban a procession when it is a procession of another community. But when it is a procession of our own community, we say, let us have it. It is not as though we have not learnt lessons. In the last two days Delhi has been totally peaceful. We have managed the situation. I am not asking for any compliments. It is our duty to do that. And we have learnt lessons. And these lessons which we have learnt in the last two days, four days, one week will not be easily forgotten. The proximate cause was one incident. But for this maniacal truck which ploughed in the CRPF picket, there would have been no loss of life on the 5th December. But that was an uncontrollable situation. And, I am sure, even Lt. Genl. Arora will agree with me that you cannot stop a maniacal truck which comes out of a place and ploughs into a picket. It is impossible to stop it. What stopped it was the wall. But for this incident that day, the whole thing would have been peaceful. We have controlled the situation on Saturday and Sunday. And I may assure you and this Hon. House that we will not relax our vigil and we will be more careful and more worry about non-secular politics, and we would be firm in dealing with any attempt to disturb peace in Delhi, and we will maintain peace in Delhi.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

II. Senior Officials, Meeting of the AFRICA FUND Committee held in Lusaka from November 24 to 26, 1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Mr. Chairman, Sir, It would be recalled that the Eight Conference of Heads of State of Government or Nonaligned countries, held in Harare in September, 1986, had resolved to establish the "AFRICA Fund" (Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid Fund) to strengthen the economic and financial capability of the Frontline States, to fight the Apartheid regime of South Africa, to support the liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia in their struggle against racist and colonialist oppression, to assist the Frontline States to enforce sanctions against South Africa and enable them to cope with any retaliatory action by the racist Pretoria regime.

Pursuant to this Resolution, senior officials of the Fund Committee Member States, viz. India, Zambia, Algeria, Argentina, Congo, Nigeria, Peru, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe met in Lusaka from November 24 to 26, 1986 to draw up a Plan of Action for the Fund. The leader of Indian delegation who chaired the Meeting in India's capacity as Chairman of the Fund Committee conveyed on behalf of the Prime Minister of India, cordial greetings and good wishes for the success of the Meeting.

The Meeting expressed its concern at the deteriorating situation in Southern Africa. It condemned the Pretoria regime for having stepped up its oppression and subjugation of the disenfranchised and dispossessed people of South Africa through several repressive measures continued illegal occupation of Namibia and its policy of destabilisation and State terrorism against the Frontline and other neighbouring countries. The Meeting reaffirmed that Apartheid, a crime against humanity, was the root cause of conflict in the region and reiterated the commitment of the Nonaligned countries for its complete eradication.

The Meeting discussed the priority areas of assistance to the Frontline States and