

[Prof. (Mrs.) Asima Chatterjee]

USA from the militarisation of space and to prevent star wars. Thank you.

**REFERENCE TO THE INCREASE IN
CHILD MORTALITY RATE DUE TO
CANCER AND INADEQUATE MEDI-
CAL FACILITIES**

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE (Assam): Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to draw your attention and the attention of the House to a matter of public importance. Cancer, the killer disease has now struck the children. Over the years there was a significant drop in child mortality from infectious and congenital diseases. This promise of a marked advance in child health and care, however, has proved to be short-lived, for cancer has already emerged as the principal cause of death after accidents among children in most developed countries.

Madam, in the next few years, experts feel that cancer would become the commonest cause of death of children in India too. Despite not too encouraging results in research on cancer which is still not under control, it is, however, established that paediatric cancer is, to a large extent, controllable due to advances in chemotherapy radiotherapy and surgery which have led to successful treatment and even cure if detected early. And statistics show that the percentage of detection find recovery in children is higher than that of the adults. But, in India, according to the well-known cancer specialists, delay in diagnosing malignancies is one of the main restraining factors in obtaining good results in childhood cancer. And, unfortunately our most of the medical colleges do not have a cancer department for thorough investigation and it has been pointed out that doctors pass out of their colleges without acquiring much practical knowledge of diagnosing or treating cancer.

So, Madam, it is imperative that departments for paediatric cancer be introduced in medical colleges without delay. Failure to recognise this impending danger and to launch a time bound programme to combat this danger, in the next few years, I am afraid, may be too, late to meet the situation when the cancer strikes the children as the killer disease.

Thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Smt. Margaret Alva you wanted to make a statement about the Government Business. You may do it now before I ask the Home Minister to make his statement.

**ANNOUNCEMENT RE. GOVERN-
MENT BUSINESS DURING THE RE-
MAINING PART OF THE CURRENT
SESSION**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI 'MARGARET ALVA): Madam, with your permission I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the remaining part of the Session will consist of:

(1) Consideration and passing of the Essential Services Maintenance (Amendment) Bill, 1985, as passed by the Lok Sabha. .

(2) Discussion on the Resolution regarding declaration of Uranium Industry as an essential service.

(3) Consideration and passing/return of the following Bills, as passed by Lok Sabha;

(i) The Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

(ii) The Government Savings Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

(iii) The Intelligence Organisations (Restriction of Rights) Bill, 1985.

(iv) The Tobacco Board (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

(v) The Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

(vi) The Judges (Protection) Bill, 1985.

(vii) The Lighthouse (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

(viii) The Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

RE. SUSPENSION OF LUNCH HOUR

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As we have very heavy business today, we will dispense with lunch hour and continue. I hope the House will agree. The *Home Minister*.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

उपसभापति : किस घर है ?

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मंत्री जी जिस विधेयक के लिये प्रस्ताव रखने जा रहे हैं उस पर मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

उपसभापति : अभी होम मिनिस्टर साहब का स्टेटमेंट हो रहा है आज विफोर टाइम बोल रहे हैं।

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Re. assassination of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, President, Shiromani Akali Dal and a shooting incident at Jullandhar

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Madam, I rise to make a statement on a very sad and grave tragedy that has taken place in the death of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, President of Shiromani Akali Dal and on the

shooting incident at Jalandhar resulting in the death of Shri D. D. Khullar, a Congress (I) leader.

A conference of Istri Akali Dal was organised at Gurdwara Akal Prakash, Sherpur Village, district Sangrur, on 20th August, 1985. There was a congregation of about 5,000 persons. Santji had just finished speaking and was receiving Saropas when around 5.40 P.M. Santji was fired upon. The bodyguard of Santji fired towards the assailants as a result of which one assailant suffered injuries. The injured person and another assailant were apprehended. The third person managed to escape.

Two .455 revolvers, each along with five (5) empty cartridge and one live cartridge have been recovered from the assailants.

Immediately after the incident a Deputy Superintendent of Police, who was in charge of Sant Longowal's security, forthwith took Santji to the Civil Hospital at Sangrur but in spite of immediate medical attention Santji succumbed to his injuries. In the shooting which took place within the precincts of the Gurdwara one more person was killed and some others were injured.

The State Government had made arrangements to provide security to Sant Longowal at his place of residence, during his road journeys and at known places of meetings etc. Inside the Gurdwara, a security team of plain clothed police personnel was available with Santji. In addition, an S.P. with a group of commandos had already positioned themselves in the Gurdwara before the arrival of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. It is most unfortunate that in spite of all these arrangements, this dastardly event has taken place.

It is with a sense of anguish that I have also to inform about the shooting incident at Jalandhar on 20th August, 1985. Three unidentified