

## RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 14th March, 1985  
Phalguna 1906 (Saka)

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

### ORAL, ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes, now Questions. Question No. 21 and Question No. 30 will be taken up together. Yes, Mr. Satyanarayan Reddy.

#### Involvement of opposition parties for Solution of Punjab problem

\*21. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government have plans to involve Opposition Parties in seeking a solution of the Punjab problem on the lines of Tripartite Meetings which were held in 19-83 and early 1984?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): A Cabinet Committee consisting of three senior Ministers which has been formed to study the problem and to look at alternatives for a peaceful settlement as early as possible, is currently looking into various aspects of the matter.

#### Solution of Punjab problem

30. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: SHRI CHATURNAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken by Government since January this year to solve the Punjab problem and the progress so far. made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): A Cabinet Committee consisting of three senior Ministers which has been formed to study the problem and to look at alternatives for a peaceful

settlement as early as possible is currently looking into various aspects of the matter. A number of Akali leaders, who were under detention, have been released with a view to create congenial atmosphere for furthering solution of the problem. The Cabinet Committee proposes to visit Punjab in furtherance of this objective.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, my question was very specific. I have asked whether the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the Government have plans to involve the Opposition parties in seeking a solution of the Punjab problem on the lines of the tripartite meetings which were held in 1983 and early 1984. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that in all ten tripartite meetings were held in 1983 and 1984, but no solution could be found. When the first tripartite meeting between the Central Ministers, the leaders of the various Opposition parties and the representatives of the Akali Dal started on the 25th of January 1983, the then Home Minister, Mr. Sethi, said specifically that the issues had been narrowed down and there was near-agreement. I do not know, what happened later. So many meetings were held and the last meeting which was held in 1984 has been adjourned due to the violence and serious situation that arose in Punjab then and, afterwards, President's Rule was promulgated. But no steps were taken to convene a meeting of the Opposition leaders and no serious attempts has been made in this direction. Ultimately, we know, how the nation had to face a terrible situation and the late Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, was brutally assassinated by her own security men. That situation arose and, consequently, riots took place in Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ (Interruptions).

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Indradeep Sinha.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only questions, please.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: I do not know what steps the Government is taking. I also want to know whether the Government will take the Opposition leaders into confidence in trying to solve this problem once and for all with goodwill and in seriousness. I do not know.... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him answer first.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: The Minister has only said that a Cabinet Committee has been set up... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister answer first.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: One minute, Sir. He says that a Cabinet Committee has been formed. He says that it will go round Punjab ... (*Interruptions*)... I do not know. My question was whether the Opposition leaders would be involved and the tripartite meeting would take place. I would like to know what steps the Government has taken in this direction. He says that the Committee will go round the State and meet the people. But I want a specific answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is right. You want an answer. Let the Minister answer first.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, the reply is very clear. The Cabinet Committee is seized of the matter and if the Cabinet Committee feels like that and feels that the members of the Opposition need to be consulted at the appropriate stage, that will be done if we feel that way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your second supplementary, please.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, the answer given by the Minister is very vague. He says that only if he thinks it proper and neces-

sary, he will call the meeting. That is not right... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: No comments. Please put your second supplementary.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Ten tripartite meetings were held. (*Interruptions*) There was also, the second conclave of opposition leaders in which NTR, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh took a leading part... (*Interruptions*), this second meeting was held at Delhi when a Resolution was adopted on Punjab and its solution and forwarded to the Central Government. I would like to know from the Minister concerned whether in the light of that Resolution which we had forwarded to the Central Government, and whether the Government is going to call the Opposition leaders to find out a solution of the Punjab problem.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The hon. Member has referred to the Conclave which took place in Sri Nagar and the Resolution. In furtherance of that the Government does not propose to call any of the members of the Opposition. The Cabinet Sub-Committee is considering all aspects of the question and whenever we feel that consultation with some of the hon. Members of the Opposition is necessary, in that case at an appropriate stage we might call them for discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Indradeep Sinha.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, when the Cabinet Sub-Committee was formed, immediately after the Lok Sabha elections, it was welcomed by almost all the political parties in the country as a positive step towards the solution of the problem. But, unfortunately, little or very little has been done following the formation of the Cabinet Sub-Committee. Now, recently some Akali leaders have been released. That is a good step. But I would like to know, what are the difficulties in the release of the person like Mr. Prakash Singh

Badal or Mr. Gurcharan Singh Tohra or a large number of persons against whom no specific charges have been levelled. If there are any charges the Government may try them. But if there are no charges against certain persons why have they not been released, and what is the difficulty for the Government in releasing them? Secondly, what is the difficulty for the Government in accepting almost the unanimous demand or the democratic opinion in the country for instituting a judicial inquiry into the unfortunate incidents that happened in Delhi and other places after the tragic assassination of the late Prime Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant to this question. Reply to the first part.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN. His first part of the question relates to some Akali leaders. The hon. Member seems to be interested in finding out as to why others have not been released so far. Sir, the cases are being reviewed, and if we feel that here is a case where the release is going to create the necessary atmosphere for the discussion for finding out a solution to the Punjab problem, certainly the Government will be too happy to release them. But unless the entire scrutiny is completed, I am not able to say as to who is going to be re-teased. If there are no specific charges against any persons, normally they are not detained. If there is a violent activity or if there has been a criminal charge against the person concerned, Government do not propose to release him.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: There was a broadcast made on the 2nd of June, 1984, by the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, about the terms of a possible solution of the Punjab problem. Has the Government referred the Prime Minister's broadcast to their Cabinet Sub-Committee for review or reconsideration "by the Cabinet Sub-Committee or is it supposed to proceed on that basis or has the Government formulated any other basis for the solution of the Punjab problem?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, all the

statements made by the Prime Minister are with the Cabinet Sub-Committee. All angles are being properly examined. I cannot possibly disclose as to what strategy the Cabinet Sub-Committee is trying to evolve for finding a solution of the problem.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि सरकार जो अकाली नेताओं से समझौते की बात चला रही है वह तो चलाये यह अच्छी बात है और जो उन्होंने रिहाई की है वह भी अच्छी बात है। लेकिन जो सिख और आम जनता में व्याप्त भावना है उसको देखते हुए सेकुलर पार्टी और खासकर ट्रेड यूनियन के लोगों को यह अधिकार होना चाहिए कि वहाँ वे लोग आम जनता में कम्पेन कर सकें ताकि वे वहाँ सेकुलर भावना को जगा सकें। सरकार ने आम जनता को उन्हीं लोगों के हाथों में छोड़ दिया है जो साम्प्रदायिक प्रचार करते हैं। मैं हाल में पंजाब गया था। वहाँ मैंने देखा कि अकाली लोग गुम्हारों के जरिये मोटिंग और प्रचार कर लेते हैं और हिन्दू रक्षा समिति और दूसरे लोग जो हैं वे मंदिरों में प्रचार कर लेते हैं। लेकिन जो सरकारी प्रतिबंध है उनके चलते जो सेकुलर लोग हैं, आपकी पार्टी और हमारी पार्टी के हैं वह कुछ भी नहीं कर पाते हैं। हमारी पार्टी कुछ करती है तो हमारे लोग अतंकवादियों द्वारा मारे जाते हैं। बहुत से हमारे लोग मारे गये हैं और हाल में भी मारे गये हैं। इसलिये मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि और मैंने प्रधानमंत्री को लिखा भी है कि...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I am coming to that. Will the Government allow the secular parties and the trade unions to launch campaign on the questions of national unity, particularly Hindu-Sikh unity in Punjab? Will you allow us to do so in Punjab with reasonable restrictions?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I do not think there has been a total prohibition on propagation of secular views in Punjab. It all depends on the assessment which each political party makes of the situation prevailing in

that area. Everybody is welcome for propagation of secular ideals in that area. But I do not know what kind of activity goes on in the name of secular ideals which are sought to be preached. It is very difficult for us to say anything about it. The Government has to act in certain cases where undesirable activities come to the notice of the Government.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: My question is whether the trade unions and the secular parties will be allowed to hold meetings with reasonable restrictions. There are restrictions for us. The Akali Dal and the Hindu Sur-aksha Samiti are free to say all kinds of things in their temples and gurdwaras on this specific question. Are you going to relax it for us or not? That is the point? Either you say that you relax or that you don't relax. Would you give us the civil liberties to launch this movement?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: This is a suggestion for action. We will examine it.

**श्री सत्यपाल मलिक :** सभापति महोदय, लगता यह है कि पंजाब के सिलसिले में जब भी कोई बातचीत होगी उसमें दो कठिनाइयाँ होंगी। एक तो आनन्दपुर साहिब का प्रस्ताव और दूसरा जो हिंसक कामों में शरीक उग्रवादी हैं उनकी रिहाई का मसला। जो आनन्दपुर साहिब प्रस्ताव है वह अंधों का हाथी है और उसको कई तरीकों से रखा जाना है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि विपक्ष को किसी भी बातचीत में शरीक करने से पहले क्या सरकार विपक्ष का रुख उन लोगों की रिहाई के बाबत जिनकी रिहाई की मांग की जा रही है, लेकिन जो सीधे हिंसा में इन्वाल्व हैं, मुठभेड़ों में और लोगों के कत्लों में, उसके बाबत और आनन्दपुर प्रस्ताव के अलगाववादी स्वरूप के बाबत क्या विपक्ष की राय सरकार जानना चाहेगी और उसे पब्लिक करना चाहेगी।

**श्री एस० बी० चव्हाण :** दो चीजें जो कही गई हैं उसमें पहली का जवाब तो मैं पहले दे चुका हूँ जहाँ तक हिंसा का ताल्लुक

है जिनके ऊपर हिंसा में हिस्सा लेने के चार्ज हैं उनको रिहा करने का सवाल दा नहीं होता। जिनके खिलाफ स्पेसिफिक क्रिमिनल चार्ज हैं उनको भी रिहा करने का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता। आनन्दपुर साहिब रेजोल्यूशन के बारे में विपक्ष के लोगों की तरफ कई मतवा कई बातें कही गई हैं। उनमें से कौन सी बात वे स्टिक अप करते हैं इसके लिये हम तो उनको मजबूर नहीं कर सकते हैं कि आखिर बात आपकी इसके अन्दर कौन सी है वह आप बताइये। लेकिन कुछ बातें कही गई हैं जिसमें कभी कहा जाता है कि हम उस पर विश्वास नहीं करते हैं और कभी कहा जाता है अकाली दल के लोगों के साथ बातचीत करके समझौता करना जरूरी है। इस तम से जो बातें की जाती हैं, उसके दोनों माने दिये जा सकते हैं और जो पार्टी जो मायने निकालना चाहेगी वह मायना निकालेगी। लेकिन हम विपक्ष के लोगों को इसके बारे में मजबूर नहीं कर सकते कि आपका आखिर इसके बारे में क्या नजरिया है आप बताइये। इसके लिये हम उनको मजबूर नहीं कर सकते।

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, even though the question refers to it, personally I don't think the question whether the Government involves those of us in the Opposition in the tripartite talks or does not involve us is of critical importance. It is up to the Government. And the Minister has said that he will involve us if he finds it necessary. Fair enough. That is perfectly acceptable to us. Avowedly and quite rightly, the Government has said that a matter of urgent priority is finding a solution, a solution to his apparently intractable problem of Punjab. Government has demonstrated its desire to move fast by appointing Governors in the manner in which it has appointed one for a State like Punjab with a view to solving the problem there. If a decision is taken in the *ad hoc* manner in which it is taken, then doubts arise. Following from that doubt, Sir, I would like to know, specifically a few things. After the release of Shri Harchand Singh Longowal, he has categorically said

three or four things which would lead towards a resumption of talks. What is the Government's reaction to those three or four things? Secondly, the Indian Army has today been in Punjab as the law and order agency for almost nine months. When is the Army going to be finally withdrawn from Punjab?

श्री रामानन्द यादव : यह क्वेश्चन कहां से आता है ? (व्यवधान)

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, Shri Longowal seems to have said that these are the pre-conditions wh^n the Government will have to satisfy before any negotiations can be started. But this is what the newspapers have reported. Government has not any su~h thing from Shri Longowal. And without getting an authentic report from him, it will not be proper on the part of the Government to react on the basis of the newspaper report. I am sor^y, I forgot the subsequent portion of his question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I repeat it, Sir, with your permission?

MR. CHAIRMAN: When is the Army going to be withdrawn?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: About the presence of the Army...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If you give me an opportunity to repeat it...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The question is import int. When is the Army going to be withdrawn from Punjab? It is forgotten by the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have reminded the hon. Minister.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The s'lhs?-ijuent portion of the hon. Member's question is about the withdrawal of the Army in Puniab Barring three districts of Puniab, in the rest of the ureas, the Army v,as ^e<>n withdrawn. And in tno«e three districts also, a? far as possible, we will try to see that

the local police is able to manage the entire thing though the presence of the Army in some form or the other is bound always to be there.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Always? Are you suggesting that...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Minister has said...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Please.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH:.. the presence is always to be there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Nothing will be recorded. Now. Shri Rama-nand Yadav. (Interruptions).

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: ••

श्री रामानन्द यादव : सभापति महोदय आपने क्वेश्चन का स्कोप बढ़ा दिया है इसलिए मैं जो प्रश्न पूछूंगा उसका स्कोप बढ़ेगा और आप उसको अलाऊ करेंगे। (व्यवधान) उसको हल्का कर दिया है सत्यपाल मलिक ने। सरकार से... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will decide the relevance of it.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि विरोधी दलों के नेताओं से वार्ता करने के पहले सरकार क्या उन से दो बातों पर लिखित रूप में विचार ले लेगी। पहला तो यह है कि आनन्दपुर साहब रेजोल्यूशन पर उनका स्टैंड क्या है यह रिटर्न होना चाहिये। दूसरा यह कि क्या सरकार अकालियों से एक पैकेज डील करेगी पीसमील तरीके से नहीं। यहां भी विरोधी दलों के साथ सरकार पैकेज डील करे। तीसरी बात यह है कि सरकार विरोधी दलों से वह जान ले क्योंकि अकाली दल में पांच फ्रैक्शन हो गये हैं। प्रीस्ट ग्रुप अलग है लोगोवाल ग्रुप अलग है। तलवंदी ग्रुप अलग है, एक्स्ट्रीमिस्ट्स अलग हैं और फिर उसके बाद सिख स्टैंडेंस फेडरेशन अलग है। (व्यवधान) यह चीज है। तो एक मत हो करके बात करें। आप

♦♦Not recorded.

बतायें किस किस ग्रुप के साथ सरकार बात करे। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या सरकार इस हाउस को आश्वासन देगी कि आनन्दपुर रेजोल्यूशन अकालियों के साथ समझौता करने का भी बेसिस नहीं बनेगा ?

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, I object to the first part of the question because it puts all the opposition parties in the dock. Either we be allowed to make a statement about our position regarding the Anandpurahib Resolution, or that part should be ruled out.

**श्री रामानन्द यादव : क्या आपमें श्री जनसंघ में एक राय है ?... (व्यवधान)**

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Why not all that together? (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you have said has not gone on record. (Interruptions). You cannot challenge the Chair, please sit down.

**श्री एस० बी० चव्हाण :** सभापति महोदय, आनन्दपुर मेम्बर ने जो सवाल पूछा है मैंने पहले ही उसका जवाब दे दिया है कि विपक्ष के लोगों के साथ बात-चीत करने का अभी कोई मौका नहीं है। कैबिनेट सब कमेटी सारे मामले के ऊपर ध्यान दे रही है और जब हमें लगे कि विपक्षी लोगों के साथ बात करनी चाहिए तब उस स्टेज पर इसके बारे में गौर किया जायेगा। लेकिन हम उनको मजबूर नहीं कर सकते हैं कि आप लिखित हमारे पास भेजिए कि आनन्दपुर साहब प्रस्ताव के बारे में आपकी क्या राय है और बाकी चीजों के बारे में क्या राय है। यह तो मिलने के बाद और आपस में बातचीत होने के बाद ही उस बात का फैसला कर सकते हैं। और जहाँ तक सिखों के अन्दर जो अलग-अलग ग्रुप्स हैं उनसे बात करने का सवाल है, कैबिनेट सब-कमेटी यह पंजाब के दौरे पर जाने के बाद ही कुछ तय कर पायेगी।

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Doesn't the Government know it?

**श्री एस० बी० चव्हाण :** यह कैबिनेट सब कमेटी अलग-अलग एरियाज में जाकर और वहाँ के जितने लोग हम से मिलना चाहें, मिल सकेंगे। यह कैबिनेट सब-कमेटी समझती है कि जिन लोगों को बात-चीत के लिए बुलाया जाए उन लोगों के साथ बात-चीत करेंगे, उसके बाद हमको लगे कि इसका हल ढूँढ़ने में कुछ फायदेमंद साबित हो सकती है, उस पर गौर किया जा सकता है।

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the most significant step in breaking the impasse on the Punjab situation has been taken by the Prime Minister himself. I welcome this and I think everyone in this House would welcome it. It is the statement the Prime Minister made to the magazine 'Sunday' in an interview where he said that judicial inquiry into what had happened in Delhi and other places would be instituted and this has become a point of issue. The Prime Minister then made the statement that he would make a statement to this effect by the 10th of March. But then he was unfortunately out of the country in Moscow. I would like to know from the Home Minister, whether such a statement, which would make it easier for negotiations on Punjab to take place, is likely to be made by him as the Home Minister or by the Prime Minister himself.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, the entire issue is being considered by the Cabinet Sub-Committee and ultimately it is the Prime Minister who, in consultation with the Cabinet Sub-Committee, is going to take a decision in the matter. Regarding the interview to which the hon. Member has referred. I think it will have to be a package in which all aspects will be considered. We do not rule out the possibility of that kind of inquiry if a solution seems to be in sight.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Sir, I specifically asked whether by the 19th of March the Prime Minister

would be naking a statement to that effect, yes or no?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Sir, the report is quite correctly. I have not read what the Sunday has said. So, I am not sure what exactly it is *you* are reading.

The question that the hon. Member seems to have quoted is whether I will make a statement by 16th of March. As it is already - the 14th today I think the question is irrelevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Out of date.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: May I say that it is right and proper that we have started the Question Hour today on the issue of Punjab which is engaging our attention and the attention of the entire country for such a long time. But the replies of my friend, the Home Minister, are rather disturbing to me. He has needlessly said that the opposition parties are divided on this issue and he is not very sure of the stand of the opposition parties in this matter and he has, thereby, cast aspersions of the opposition parties. May I ask whether any doubt still remains about the stand of the opposition parties on the matter of Punjab? Nobody in this House or outside is working against the unity of the country and the integrity of the country, If I may say so. Even the Akalis have reiterated more than once that they do not stand for separatism of any sort; they are only concerned about certain matters to be dealt with by the State of Punjab and they have raised some issues. May I know whether the Government is keen in creating a proper climate for negotiations? If that is so, they have released only 8 Akali leaders and many others are

still under custody; does it create any proper climate for negotiations at all? And may I also know whether, after the release of these 8 leaders, any effort has been made or any move has been, made by the Government to contact those leaders? My friend has rightly said that he cannot react to the statements appearing in the press. But whether he has made any effort to contact them after release and tried to find out what the latest position is. I do not know, since the sub-committee of the Cabinet has been appointed for this purpose, whether any proposals have been formulated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question should last only two minutes, and then I shall ask the Minister to reply.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I will just finish. Prime Minister in the last session said that there has got to be a package deal, and solution cannot be by piecemeal method. May I know if he stands on that and what does he mean by package and what are the elements in this package? Sir, I would like to say that; after the statement of the Prime Minister, the situation has not improved at all. Since first move has been made by the Government to release a few Akali leaders, may I know whether the Prime Minister or the Cabinet Sub-Committee or the Government will take steps in the matter of negotiations. This is very very important and I don't think by postponing this issue we are going to solve the Punjab tangle satisfactorily.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I don't agree with the hon. Member's assessment that after the Prime Minister's statement, conditions have not improved. In fact, a very con-

genial atmosphere has been created and release of some Akali leaders has been welcomed by all sections of society. It is a matter of judgment of the Government as to who needs to be released. As I have staged earlier, we are examining the cases and as we finalise it, certainly those who can be released will be released. So far as package deal is concerned, if we try to find a solution by piecemeal method leaving the major issue unsolved, then that is not a solution. When we are trying to find a solution to the problem, it will have to be a package deal. All aspects of the question will have to be dealt with, and a solution will have to be found. It has to be a package deal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one point you have not answered, Mr. Minister. Have you made any contact with these people who have been released?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: These people have been released and we would like to give them some more time to settle down, contact their colleagues and form their own opinion.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, I am referring to the answer of the hon. Minister to the main question. It is highly unsatisfactory and also derogatory to the opposition parties. It is really a bureaucratic answer to say that the Cabinet Committee would decide, if at all the opposition parties are to be called, when and where and who should be called and so on. A favourable climate has now been created with the release of the Akali leaders and it is the proper time to call the opposition parties and elicit their view before the Committee goes to Punjab on a study tour. There is no harm in calling the meeting now and, if necessary, they can call another meeting on their return. If the hon. Minister is not in a position to decide the matter, the Prime Minister is present in the House and

I would request him to say whether he can agree to the proposal since it is in consonance with his stated policy of involving the opposition parties in the solution of national problems. There is no harm in convening a meeting immediately. I would request the Prime Minister to give his views.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: We will involve the Opposition. The question that was asked of the Home Minister was very specific. Are you going to involve the Opposition? When are you going to involve the Opposition? He said, when it is convenient and when we think the time is ripe, we will involve the Opposition. This is absolutely correct. It is no use involving the Opposition before the time is ripe. We will involve the Opposition. We will talk to you. We will discuss it with you and we would like this time to be put on record.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: Sir, during the elections, there was a very adverse reaction to one proposal for solving the Punjab tangle. This was a proposal for merging the three States, of Himachal Pradesh, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: I am putting my question. It was specifically denied, it was said that Himachal Pradesh would not merge with Punjab. But nothing was said in respect of Haryana. I would like to know whether Haryana's merger is being considered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not allowed.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister talked about specific demands and so on. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether an effort would be made to get specific demands, with a time-bound programme from Mr. Longowal. For example, to specify "which basis the talks will proceed" without a specific enumeration of what they want, how can the talks proceed?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Hon. Member is right. Every time when negotiations have been held with some of the Akali leaders, every time we try to find a solution to a particular issue, in a subsequent meeting, they used to add a number of demands. But ultimately we had to put up with it and tell them that they will have to inform the Government that these are the issues to which they would like to find solutions. But we cannot be very rigid and say that if they do not do it, we will not talk with them. This sort of attitude we cannot possibly take.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: sir, the question relates to Opposition parties. Therefore, Members from the Opposition should be given more chances to put supplementaries.

श्री इशार्द बेग मिर्जा : सभापति महोदय, प्रधानमंत्री जी ने और सरकार ने शुरू से पंजाब समस्या के हल के लिए विपक्षी मित्रों को आमंत्रित किया है। तो मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार की ओर से उन्हें जो निमंत्रण दिया गया सहयोग देने का उसमें विपक्षी मित्रों की ओर से कोई सहयोग प्राप्त हुआ क्योंकि अखबारों के जरिए यह मालूम हुआ है कि विपक्षी नेताओं और विपक्षी दलों का अभी तक का जो रवैया है वह कुछ साफ दिखाई नहीं देता इस समस्या के हल में उसके समझौते में। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितने हद तक सरकार इससे संतुष्ट हुई है कि विपक्षी दलों और विपक्षी नेताओं की ओर से इस समस्या के हल के लिए उनकी तरफ से जो आमंत्रित किया गया है उसमें उनका सहयोग प्राप्त हुआ ?

श्री एस० बी० चव्हाण : पीछे क्या हुआ इसके बारे में ज्यादा तफसील में जाने के बजाए जब कैबिनेट सब-कमेटी को लगेगा कि विपक्षी नेताओं के साथ बातचीत करना जरूरी है तब उस पर गौर किया जाएगा।

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Punjab problem is as urgent as it is vague and delicate. Still it is of the gravest national importance. Therefore one

would expect that the political parties would cut through party predilections and affiliations in finding a solution to this problem. The attitude of hunting with the hound and running with the hare should be given up by all political parties. (Interruptions) You do not want to give it up. So far as Government is concerned, it has un-equivocally reiterated times out of number that within the constitutional framework they are willing to discuss anything and every thing with the Akali Party. Today's statement of Sant Longowal is clear that they are not speaking of anything which amounts to secession from the Union; they do not want Khalistan. If that be so, I want to know from the Home Minister whether they have made any tentative assessment, whether they are in a position at this juncture to disclose to us what have been the areas of difference between the Government and the Akalis.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The hon. Member has referred to a statement of Sant Longowal. I have also read it. But unless I were to get some kind of communication from him, I cannot forcibly react to a reported statement in the press. So he has to send some kind of communication by which I will know that this exactly is his position. As soon as I receive it, I will be able to say what Government thinks about it.

I am in full agreement with the hon. Member that the members of the Opposition have been expressing different views. There is no doubt about it. But we do not want to go into past history. In future whenever we feel that a stage has come when consultation with the members of the Opposition is necessary, at that appropriate stage we will definitely consult them.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: The release of the Akali leaders has cleared the background of the Punjab tangle. But many of their leaders have, not yet been released. Therefore, Anand-

pur Sahib Resolution is the problem which has to be solved if we want to tackle the Punjab situation. Now in the last Session, I remember the Prime Minister categorically stated that there cannot be a dialogue with the Akali Dai unless they renounce the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. Now the Opposition parties have clearly expressed their opinion about the Anandpur Sahib Resolution that certain parts or many of its formulations smack of secessionism and we have condemned it. But Akali Dal is still sticking to the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether despite a favourable background being created after the release of many of the Akali leaders, he still stands on the same ground that unless Akali Dal renounces the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, there cannot be any fruitful dialogue or any solution of the Punjab problem. I would like to know this from the Prime Minister.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: I think a slight correction is required. I did not say that rejection of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution is a pre-condition. I said there are certain clauses in the Anandpur Sahib Resolution which we do not think are conducive to a secular, united India and those should be removed.

We do not want Anandpur Sahib Resolution to be a pre-condition for any talks. We do not really want to discuss Anandpur Sahib Resolution. If, like the Akali Dal says the Anandpur Sahib Resolution is only a Centre-State problem, we have the Sarkaria Commission. The Akali Dal is most welcome to take it to the Sarkaria Commission, put it in front of Justice Sarkaria, and put their arguments. All the Opposition parties, the Congress Party and the Government will put their arguments and let Justice Sarkaria give us a report on that.

Regarding your first statement, I think there are certain differences between the Opposition parties on the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, be-

cause certainly there *is* one Opposition party which is very strongly propagating Anandpur Sahib Resolution. So, I think you might like to discuss amongst yourselves and sort out exactly what your stand is or what you feel about this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question... (*Interruptions!*)... Questions Nos. 22, 27 and 35 will be taken together.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Sir, all these questions differ. The first question deals with assault on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan navy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And 27 and 35.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Question No. 27 deals with influx of refugees from Sri Lanka.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On all these people can put questions. Therefore, I am taking all the questions together.

MISS JAYALALITHA: Mr Chairman. Sir, Question No. 22 and Question No. 3Q relate to our citizens—the fishermen of Rameshwaram. But Question No. 27 is an entirely different matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Doesn't matter. If I rule out as irrelevant, you won't agree; you will fight with me. Therefore, I am putting all these questions together.

#### **Assault on Indian Fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy**

\*22». SHRI L. GANESAN: SHRI V.

GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to unstarred question 456 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th January, 1985 and state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen assaulted by Sri Lankan Navy

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. Gopalsamy.