

[Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare]

gas company should not be given this task because my experience shows that six months out of twelve months in a year, the company used to remain closed mainly because of labour trouble. This is because they were such poor and useless paymasters without any social obligation towards the workers. As against this, the history of labour-management relationship in the municipalised transport system and in the Bombay electricity supply and distribution system has been one of excellence and I think, the time has come when the Government should reconsider this issue and should see that this task is given to the Bombay Municipal Corporation. In the same way, Government may also consider suitable arrangements for the supply of natural gas, wherever the pipeline goes. We can have fresh supply after Surat, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Kota, Guna, Sawai Madhopur to mention only a few; wherever this can be easily achieved.

The next point which I would like to make is in regard to the rural poor, urban poor and the middle class. We talk of food, shelter and clothing as the three basic necessities. I would like to add a fourth item to these three basic necessities. This is the energy component. I think, fulfilment of the energy demands of the households, particularly, of the rural and the urban poor, should be declared as much a minimum need as any other basic necessity.

As regards power, I would suggest that more emphasis should be laid on the capacity utilisation and the productive efficiency and use of the capacity which is already existing. We have great paucity of transmission lines and many other things. There are many areas wherein one would like to speak. There is a very happy mention of the *chulas* where there would be cooking without tears. There is provision for things

being done in regard to afforestation and many other things, particularly, in the case of rural electrification. Here, I would like to make one or two suggestions and I would have done.

The statistics show that only about eight per cent of the rural households are electrified, while about fourteen to fifteen per cent of the households in the urban areas are electrified. Household electrification is important not only for its relevance, as far as energy is concerned, to rural areas, to improve the quality of life generally and its impact on the socio-economic parameters like literacy, family planning, but also because it can save on kerosene, which is used for lighting in many instances and in cooking, specially. Here, what is the position in certain other States, particularly, in the backward areas, like Eastern U.P., Bihar and Orissa? For example, in Bombay, in Maharashtra, you will find that there is ninety per cent electrification.

In these areas it is not even 35 per cent. I do hope that the Ministry will remove this imbalance. Here may I once again look happily on the giant leap which we have noticed in the leap year in the field of energy?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now the hon. Home Minister will make the statement. Before that I would like to inform the House that we shall have a full debate on the statement tomorrow after the Question Hour. So, today we shall not allow any clarifications.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re. Law and Order Situation in Punjab

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Sir, the Hon'ble Members will recall that on 21st March, 1984, I informed the Hon. House about the situation in Punjab on account of the agitation by the Akali Dal and the activities

of extremists and terrorists. I wish to inform the House about the main developments since. Things became a little quiet in the State during the last week of March, 1984, but the atmosphere was vitiated again with the murderous attack on Harbans Singh Manchanda in Delhi on 28th March, 1984. On 1st April, 1984, two unidentified youth hurled two grenades at Nirankari Bhavan in Village Chemaba, in district Amritsar, where weekly satsang was going on. As a result two women and a girl were killed on the spot and a number of persons were injured. On 2nd April, Shri Harbans Lal Khanna, district President of BJP and ex-MLA, was shot dead in his shop at Amritsar by some unknown Sikh youths. The assailants also killed his gunman and injured a customer in the shop who later succumbed to injuries. Following this number of incidents took place in Amritsar, on 3rd April, 1984, in which 8 persons were killed.

Hon'ble Members would recall that the Akali Dal had given a call for Panth Azad Week agitation to be launched from 2nd April, 1984. On 31st March, 1984, I made the following statement:

"There seem to be some misgivings among members of the Shiromani Akali Dal that the wordings of Explanation II of Article 25(2) (b) of the Constitution does not reflect the distinct identity of the Sikh community. Government will be prepared to consult the SGPC and other representatives of Sikh community as well as legal experts and undertake such legislation by way of amendment as may be necessary to remove doubts on this point. In view of this, I trust that Shiromani Akali Dal will withdraw the agitation proposed to start on the 2nd April."

In response to this statement the proposed agitation was withdrawn by the Akali Dal.

There have been some incidents of violence involving extremist groups in or near the Golden Temple complex. On 14-4-1984 at about 11.30 A.M., Shri Surinder Singh Sodhi, a proclaimed offender wanted in a number of cases, was shot dead at a Sindhi Hotel near Guru Ram Das Sarai in Amritsar by two persons. A case FIR No. 130 u/s 302/307 IPC and Sections 25/27/54 Arms Act has been registered on 14-4-1984 in connection with the killing of Surinder Singh Sodhi. Four persons namely, Kuldip Singh, Rajinder Singh, Gurcharan Singh, and Gurdip Singh who were sitting in the hotel, also received minor injuries.

The dead body of Shri Surinder Singh alias Chhinda was recovered near village Manawal in Amritsar on 16th April, 1984. The same day, Shri Malik Singh Bhatia, Jathedar of the Amritsar City Jatha of the Talwandi Group of the Akali Dal was shot dead in the Golden Temple Complex. On the same day, Shri Barjinder Singh Baiji, was shot dead in his shop adjacent to the road dividing Manji Sahib and Guru Nanak Niwas.

During the night of 14th-15th April, 1984, terrorists made attempts to burn railway property in railway stations in various parts of Punjab. Another such incident occurred on the night of 15th-16th April, 1984. 39 railway stations in 9 districts were involved in such cases. 12 of these railway stations are in district Ferozepur, 8 in district Bhatinda, 4 in district Amritsar, 5 in district Faridkot, 3 in district Ludhiana, 2 each in the districts of Jullundur, Gurdaspur and Kapurthala and 1 in district Ropar. These are mostly way-side and flag stations. In most of these incidents, miscreants entered the station building and set fire to records and furniture. There was no dislocation of railway traffic and none was injured in these incidents. The AISSF and their sympathisers are believed to be responsible for

[Shri P. C. Sethi]
these acts. 44 AISSF activists were arrested following these incidents.

Some AISSF workers opened fire on police in the evening of 18th April at Fazilka in district Ferozepur. As a result, one Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police was injured. The Police opened fire in self-defence in which 2 AISSF workers were injured and they later succumbed to their injuries.

There have been incidents of violence and killings in Chandigarh which are an extension of terrorist violence in Punjab. One of the most diabolical acts was the killing of Dr. V. N. Tiwari, Member of the House at his residence in Chandigarh. The assailants came to his residence wanting to meet Dr. Tiwari and then killed him with a spray of bullets when he came to meet them in his drawing room.

Shri Inder Pal Gupta, President of local Hindu Suraksha Samiti, was killed in his shop at Chandigarh on 17th April, 1984 when some unidentified Sikh youths threw a hand grenade and also fired shots. Following incidents of stone throwing and damage to property on 18-4-84, the day of the funeral procession of Shri Gupta, curfew was imposed and prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr. PC were issued by the Chandigarh Administration. On 19-4-1984, a procession was taken out by about 100-200 sikh youths. One of the processionists on motorcycle drove off from the procession, shot at and killed a person. Another processionist also shot at and injured a person. 17 sikh activists were arrested the same day. Seven Nihangs were arrested on 20-4-84. Police arrangements in the Union Territory have been further strengthened. The curfew is continuing with relaxation for two hours each in the morning and evening. Of course now the day curfew has been lifted.

Government have taken various measures to deal with terrorists and extremists. With a view to enabling

the Armed Forces to deal effectively with the situation, the whole territory of Punjab and Chandigarh were declared disturbed area under the provisions of the Armed Forces (Punjab and Chandigarh) Special Powers Act, 1983 on 3-4-1984. An Ordinance to amend the National Security Act 1980 was promulgated on 5-4-1984 making more stringent provisions for preventive detention in these disturbed areas. Additional para-military forces have been inducted into Punjab. The communication and the mobility of the local police is being constantly improved. A large number of wireless sets have been supplied to the State police to enable prompt reaction by them to any crime which may be committed by the extremists. Intensive police patrolling and nakabundies have been organised. Village defence societies have been re-activated.

Para-military forces are now being deployed as special task forces to combat terrorism. They will be able to make use of the special powers conferred on them in performing this task while their activities will be coordinated within the given area by the district authorities. They will also supervise and further activate the Village Defence Scheme in the areas allotted to them. Intensive operations will be organised in the worst affected districts. Steps are being taken to improve the ground intelligence and it should start yielding results soon.

The Punjab Govt. has taken a series of measures for protection of the banks and railway tracks. In the last few weeks, several cases of attempt to sabotage the railway lines had been prevented or detected in time and accidents averted. There has been a decline in the bank robberies also. The State Government has continued its efforts to apprehend terrorists. Since the inception of President's Rule upto 14-4-1984, 228 persons have been arrested in connection with the 467 cases of violence which were registered during

this period. Several important cases have been worked out during the last couple of months. In the months of February and March, 1984, 43 criminals were apprehended and six were killed in connection with the extremist crimes. 32 cases were traced out to these criminals. Several operations to unearth illicit arms have been conducted during this period—upto 14-4-1984. 1085 weapons including carbines and rifles have been seized. Hon'ble Members are aware that AISSF was declared an unlawful association on 19-3-1984. 318 AISSF activists have been arrested upto 20-4-1984—out of these as already stated, 144 have been arrested in connection with the arson committed at various railway stations in Punjab.

The problem of Punjab today is a national problem and not a problem of any party or of Punjab State alone. A series of acts of violence and terrorism have been perpetrated by extremists groups and organisations. Their efforts have been to motivate persons in the name of religion and to use them for their narrow objections.

Hon'ble Members will agree with me that containment of terrorist actions requires strong public support. The political parties have condemned the acts of violence for which I thank them. At the same time, I would urge them to work for creating a climate in which terrorism may be contained with public cooperation. The interrogations made by the police in a number of cases of shoot-outs, murders and desecration of places of worship have confirmed that the resources, instigation and direction and training in the use of arms were provided by the extremists who have sought the sanctuary of the Golden Temple Complex. I would ask the S.G.P.C. as to how long they are going to permit and tolerate the desecration of this place of worship in this manner. I would appeal to them as I have done earlier to hand over those wanted by law.

In this situation as it exists in Punjab, the leaders of the Akali Dal must consider the wisdom of continuing their agitation. The recent events in or near about Golden Temple Complex have shown the dangers of the cult of violence and continuation of the present state of affairs. As I have said on earlier occasions, we are committed to find a solution to outstanding issues through discussions and negotiations.

I would like to assure the House that Government would do its best to contain and eradicate the activities of terrorists.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I do not want to put any questions but in his entire statement, the most important development that has taken place yesterday, that is, the talk that the Prime Minister has had with Shri Longowal, is not even referred to. How can the debate be purposeful? We want to have a purposeful debate, not merely a catalogue of the violent incidents that we have already read in the press. Therefore, we would like to understand what is the Government's approach.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that no such talk has taken place.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Satya Pal Malik... (Interruptions)...

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: A major report of this kind appearing in the press mentions that it was for half an hour. It is very good that a denial has been made on my questioning. Otherwise, I would have gone back with the impression that the talk had taken place and the Government has not denied it. Has the Government contradicted it already?

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA (Haryana): Are we to take this as a denial?

(Interruptions)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): The point is, today there is one newspaper report. It has come out with a first headline and so, naturally... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now he has contradicted. So there is no question at all.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The point is, newspapers are taken as responsible media. Naturally... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will be circulated to you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Let the Government come out with a contradiction then. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow he will say.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: I am not putting any question. I am only saying that another very important news item which appeared in the press today says that there were frantic efforts going on for revoking President's rule in Punjab and setting up a Congress Government again.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That you can raise tomorrow and he will reply.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: What will the hon. Home Minister say?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Newspaper is not relevant here.

Now let us go back to the discussion. Now there are two or three speakers. I would request them to be very brief because I have to call the hon. Minister at 4. So, five minutes each, please. Shri Satya Pal Malik.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Syed Rahmat Ali) in the Chair.]

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY—contd.

श्री सत्य पाल मलिक (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

श्रीमान्, आप के पास समय कम है इसलिये मैं अपनी बात सिर्फ बिजली के उत्पादन और उस की सप्लाय के सिलसिले में जो सरकार की नीति है उस तक ही सीमित रखूंगा। छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना का जो बिजली उत्पादन का लक्ष्य था खास तौर से बिजली पैदा करने के लिये, इंस्टाल्ड कैपेसिटी बढ़ाने के लिये, जो लक्ष्य रखे गये थे उस सिलसिले में सरकार की उपलब्धियां बहुत डिसिमल है, बहुत निराशाजनक रहे हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में बिजली का उत्पादन, इंस्टाल्ड कैपेसिटी को कितना करने का इरादा था और हम उस में कहां तक पहुंच पाये हैं। मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार 30 सैकड़ा से भी कम आप पहुंच पाये हैं। हालात यह है कि जो मिनिस्ट्री आप इनर्जी है, खासकर बिजली के मामले में इस मंत्रालय को कोई नीति अभी तक बन चुकी नहीं है। बेहद घबराहट देश में है। क्योंकि उत्पादन के लिए उसको हर जगह जरूरत पड़ता है। बिजली का भ्रान्तवा मांग देश में बढ़ रहा है लेकिन बिजली के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए, उसके संयंत्रों की कैपेसिटी का इस्तेमाल करने के लिए कोई सहायता नहीं अपनाई गई है। उसका नतीजा यह हुआ है कि विद्युत मंत्रालय यह कहता है कि उसके पास रूपया नहीं है। तमाम तरह की फिजूलखर्ची के लिए हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार के पास रूपया है, लेकिन थर्मल पावर प्लांट लगाने के लिए जो योजनाएँ रख