

13.18 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

[English]

**Murder of Maulvi Farooq in Srinagar on  
21st May, 1990**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): Sir, I am to inform the Hon'ble Members of the august House of the facts pertaining to the most unfortunate and sad demise of Maulvi Farooq, Mirwaiz of Kashmir yesterday, and the developments which took place thereafter in Srinagar. I am sure all Members of this august House and the people all over the country join me in condemning this dastardly, criminal act and in conveying our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

The State Govt. has informed that three Kashmiri youth came to the Nagin Bagh residence of Maulvi Farooq at about 11.15 a.m. on 21.5.90 and wanted to meet him. The youth talked in Kashmiri with the Chowkidar at the gate, Shri Ghulam Qadir Sufi. They told him that they had an appointment with Maulvi Farooq. Maulvi Farooq was informed, and on his permission the youth were allowed to come into the house. They were with Maulvi Farooq for about 15 minutes, when shots of firearms were heard. The Chowkidar rushed inside the house and tried to grapple with one of fleeing assailants, but could not prevent his escape. He found that Maulvi Farooq had been shot at and had received a number of bullet wounds. Maulvi Farooq was immediately rushed to the Medical Institute at Saura where he succumbed to his injuries.

Maulvi Farooq was one of the most respected religious leaders of the Kashmir Valley with a large following. He had done a lot for the people of Kashmir. This wanton, criminal act of the terrorists has deeply hurt the sentiments of the people of Kashmir. The assassination of such a highly respected religious leader, coming in the wake of kid-

napping and murder of the Vice Chancellor of the Kashmir University, a well-known religion scholars, highlights the mindless and criminal nature of the terrorist acts in the Valley, which are designed to eliminate the respected persons and leaders, who refuse to toe their violent and secessionist line fed to them from across the border.

The body of Maulvi Farooq was taken in a procession to Mirwaiz Manzil. On way, near the Islamia College, a section of the crowd attacked the security forces picket at that place. Taking advantage of the situation, the terrorists mingled with the unruly crowd and started firing at the security forces with AK-47 and other fire arms. The security forces personnel had to open fire in self defence. At other localities also in the nearby places, the security forces personnel came under attack by unruly crowds and militants. Some pickets were severely damaged. According to reports, 27 persons have been killed and the number of injured persons is reported to be around 100. One Commandant and 10 jawans of the security forces have been injured.

The Govt. would take all necessary steps to pursue the culprits of this heinous crime and bring them to book. The situation in Srinagar is being kept under close watch, and additional security forces have been sent to Srinagar.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: It is a wrong *sarkari* version.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Whatever information is there, is 100 per cent correct. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Prime Minister.

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):** May I express my deep anguish and grief at the killing of Maulana Mirwaiz Farooq. This is a sentiment that is shared by the House all across. He was a very respected religious leader. That he has been the target of the bullets of

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the terrorists disclose the designs of the terrorists very clearly. And we see the targets have been the people who have been either moderates or nationalists. These have been the targets of terrorists apart from police personnel or para military forces, politically. So we must understand by this this politically where the bullet is aimed at. The list which we have got is Gulam Mustafa Mir, Abdul Sattar Ranjor of CPI—a freedom fighter, Seikh Mansoor, M.L.A., Gulam Nabi Khullar. Dr. Farooq Abdulah's life is also in danger. May I say that many of the people of National Conference, of Communist Parties, of Congress are targets of these terrorists? BJP is also an area of their attack... (*Interruptions*) There are areas. Even one worker matters... (*Interruptions*) Rawatji, is this the time of intervention? You tear me to pieces on other issues—there are 101 of them. Let us address ourselves to this issue.

May I say that all the people and the parties have proved their patriotism by the blood that they spilt on the soil of this land. And these are the forces that we have to bring together. This is the divide where the acid test is. This is the divide that we have namely those who are for secession and those who are for the country. Any other divide there may be, but we should forget it. There may be shades of religious faiths etc. whatever may be, but this is the divide. Therefore, they are the targets and, therefore, it is equally our responsibility to see that these forces come together and it is for us to protect them. And that is a challenge we accept clearly and it is part of our duty. And Shri Satheji has said this: whether a citizen asks for security or does not ask for security, that is not the issue. It is part of the duty of the Government to provide fullest security irrespective of whether he asks for it or not. Certainly when a certain security is offered, it becomes easier for the task of the Government if the security is accepted. But, if it is not accepted—in this case it was offered and not accepted—even then the responsibility of the Government remains, it is not absolved of it. Regarding what the Home Minister has said, certainly as Mr. Saifuddin Soz said, the facts can be verified. But whatever facts

have come to us are that the body of Maulvi Farooq was taken in procession to Mirwaiz Manzil. There is no mention of curfew. On the way near Islamia College, a section of the crowd attacked the security forces picket at that place. Taking advantage of the situation the militants mingled with the attacking crowd and started shooting at the security forces with AK 47 and other fire arms. So, it is not the picture as if the crowd had been shot into, but this was the situation when the cross fire took place. It is a fact that when cross fire takes place, though it is aimed at where the cross fire is coming from, but other casualties also take place. And we have to be very very careful to minimise any such incidents. But when faced with AK 47 Rifles and such a situation, their response has to be there as to how to rebut it. The real issue is the people of Kashmir, and finally the solution has to come from the people of Kashmir. We are clear and we have to address ourselves to the grievances, if there are legitimate grievances which they have, we wish to address ourselves to them and satisfy them as regards development and other problems. This is because I see no solution without the people of Kashmir being involved. At the same time, let us not underestimate the very deep-rooted conspiracy across the border. There is an ill intentioned, design plan, for secession and for tearing our country apart. Across the border there are camps; there is admission of camps there and the people and the people in various capitals of the countries have now realised that this is so. And that is the one thing that we are faced with. It is in Punjab also. The real agenda is this. It has local addresses care of Punjab, care of Jammu and Kashmir. As a threat to our security and integrity there, we have to face it very firmly and we are determined to do it. About that we are very clear.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about sealing of borders?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Yes, we have said it. The Government has made up its mind to seal the borders with whatever strength we have. At the same

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[Sh. Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

time, we have to be sensitive to human rights, to the human aspect, to the peoples' problems and involving the people. I think there is no contradiction in this combined approach and the Government will do fullest justice in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted the Adjournment Motion on this and I would say that Members can give other notices and the Business Advisory Committee might consider them...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Prime Minister.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, yesterday the issue of Meham was raised in the House... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Prime Minister Mr. Banatwalla. I have called the Prime Minister...

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): What about the Adjournment Motion?

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given my consent to the Adjournment Motion. I said that notices might be given and they will be considered by the Business Advisory Committee...

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Warcha): I am on a point of order Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, what is your point of order?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, under rule 376 of the Rules of procedure, it is provided

that unless one item is over, we do not go to another. Now, here is the Adjournment Motion... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have told that I have not given my consent to the Adjournment Motion and notices might be given and the Business Advisory Committee might consider them on the basis of the notices that will be given by the Members, to have a discussion on this issue...

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ (Baramulla): Sir, that is not the procedure. I am pressing my Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given permission to the Adjournment Motion...

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Under rule 376, I am on a point of order Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, my point of order is that if you had to reject my Adjournment Motion, I should have known by 11 a.m. before the Question Hour. But now, in the middle of the session, you are announcing that it will go before the Business Advisory Committee. Adjournment Motion is relevant to this day. So, you should decide it right now. I am pressing my Adjournment Motion... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you that I have not given my consent to the Adjournment Motion...

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: It cannot go to the Business Advisory Committee. I am pressing my Adjournment Motion... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now take your seat