

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

I request that those who are demanding discussion, may accept it for Monday. The Prime Minister is out of India. The Home Minister has an urgent appointment in connection with these activities. Therefore, those who are suggesting the discussion may accept for Monday.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DINESH SINGH Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission to you.

MR. SPEAKER I must listen to your submission

SHRI DINESH SINGH The reply of hon. Madhu Dandavate has added to our concern. This is so because tradition of the House so far has been that no issue is given more importance over issues concerning Parliament. I remember that it was in this House (*Interruptions*) Madhu, you and I both have been here for quite a long time, please listen to me.

The Defence Minister had to postpone his foreign visit due to some important work of this House. No other issue can be more important than the issue raised in this House today. Does the Government depend only on one Minister? The hon. Deputy Prime Minister and other Ministers are sitting here. Why can't they reply when they claim that Government is run on collective responsibility? (*Interruptions*)

12.37 1/2 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Recent Spurt in Terrorist activities in
Punjab

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER. Now, calling-attention

on Punjab. Shri Harish Rawat.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"Situation arising out of recent spurt in terrorist activities in Punjab and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

12.38 hrs.

[DR. THAMBI DURAI—in the Chair]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the Hon'ble Members, S/Shri Harish Rawat, M.J Akbar, Bhogendra Jha, N. Tombi Singh and Dileep Singh Bhuria, for drawing the attention of the House to the important matter of the situation arising out of the terrorist activities in Punjab.

Terrorism in Punjab has continued since 1981. There have been periods when the graph of terrorist crime rose sharply and other periods when it has shown decline. We have had spells of comparative peace while in certain periods, as we saw in the first half of 1988, the number of terrorist related crimes were at a much higher level for several months at a stretch. Since November 1989, terrorist gangs have again stepped up their activities. The situation improved a little in February, but in March we have again witnessed renewed criminal activity from terrorists, particularly the random killing of innocents recently in Abohar and Ferozpur.

Every time there has been a rise in terrorist activity, the source of guidance and motivation appears to have come from outside our borders. It is well known that extremist leaders overseas hold consultations in Pakistan and make plans with the blessings of Pakistani agencies to set targets and organise fresh supplies of arms and ammunition. We have often seen that the chal-

lenge from the terrorists is renewed every time there are signs of change in the situation for the better. There is a fresh upsurge of violence whenever the Government takes an initiative to improve the political environment. The incidents of Abohar and Ferozepur are ghastly reminders that the terrorists have not given up this strategy and are determined to thwart the Government's initiative to create an atmosphere conducive to an amicable solution of the problem through a national consensus within the framework of the constitution.

I have visited Punjab and held detailed discussions with the Governor and senior officers of the State Administration. I have also been to the scene of the recent crimes and met the affected persons on the 20th of this month. Several steps are already being taken to improve the law and order situation. Patrolling has been intensified in sensitive areas. The Control Room at Amritsar has been strengthened to reduce the reaction time of Police in responding to terrorist action. Control rooms at Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Ferozepur and few other locations would start functioning shortly. Senior administrative and police officers have intensified touring in the worst affected areas of the State, mainly in the border districts with the objective to attend to the grievances of the people and to provide redress on the spot. The District Magistrates and executive magistrates are being given a greater role in this respect. Anti-terrorist operations continue to be vigorously undertaken and the morale of the security forces is high.

I would like to assure the House that there would be no compromise with the anti-national elements. Terrorism and violence will be put down with a firm hand. At the same time, the process of consultation and political initiatives would continue to create conditions congenial to the holding of free and peaceful elections in the State. This is also the consensus emerging from the meeting of the representatives of political parties recently convened by the Governor of Punjab.

The problem can be resolved only under

the Constitution and without any compromise on the integrity and security of the country. I would, therefore, appeal to all sections of this House and through them to the people of our country to strengthen the hands of the Government in dealing with these anti-national and anti-social elements and finding an amicable solution to the Punjab problem.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly convey my thanks to hon. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude to him for the opportunity he gave me which enabled me to wake up the Government, which is inebriated in victory, through the maiden calling attention of this Lok Sabha.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): You always manage to come. Let him say how he manages to come first always, by being vigilant.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair. Mr. Harish Rawat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: When this Government came to power, it made many commitments. It used many new phrases. Earlier also, the friends sitting on that side had levelled many charges against the Congress Government. Shri Madan Lal Khurana and the people in his company. (*Interruptions*) I mean his colleagues..... (*Interruptions*) his party colleagues, friends and those who share his views.... (*Interruptions*) he is my close friend too. I am going to speak in their praise. They used to blame us that we did not take strong measures in Punjab and that we were not taking neces-

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

sary steps for the security of the people of Punjab. Mufti Saheb and his friend, who crossed the floor and joined the opposition also blamed us that we did not adopt strong policy in dealing with the Punjab problem. Our friends belonging to the Communist Party had also said that we did not take any political initiative in the matter. When this Government came to power, they said that 'Peace with Justice' would be their slogan about Punjab. On other occasions, they talked of new initiative. When the Prime Minister visited the Golden Temple in an open jeep to pay obeisance, it was said that he would take new initiative. When he visited Chandigarh then again he gave the slogan 'Peace with Justice' and said that we would give peace a chance. Later he said that Sikh psyche which felt hurt for many years will be given a healing touch. (*Interruptions*)

We too were moved by his words.

SHRIPRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT
(Baroda): Do you have a heart?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: If we do not have one, we will borrow it from you.

AN. HON. MEMBER: To give and take is your old business..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you allow him to speak? Or, do you want to say something. Please allow him to speak. Members from both the sides are to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we believed that this Government which was using new phrases must be knowing the meaning of what it was saying. When they talked of new initiative, we thought that they must have thought about political initiative and political action plan under which they would take steps to normalise the situation in Punjab.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today when we see the figures of these 100 days and the steps which have been taken by the hon. Home Minister and the Government in connection with Punjab problem during these 100 days, we feel distressed to describe them. I believe that some Members, who are sitting on that side and are trying to give support to the Government, also feel the same way. They might have also felt that after 100 days of its assuming power, this Government have put the process in the reverse gear and the position in Punjab has deteriorated from bad to worse. Hon. Chairman, Sir, in spite of full cooperation from our side, this is happening even now. The hon. Minister has said that Congress Government was not sincere in punishing the culprits involved in Delhi riots and that he will certainly take action against them. We told him to go ahead. He gave an assurance for providing adequate financial help to the widows of riot victims and also to increase the amount of compensation. We extended our cooperation in this matter also. When the Government decided to withdraw the 59th Constitutional Amendment Bill, which they said was pinching in the hearts of the people of Punjab, we supported this move also. The hon. Home Minister cannot blame us, not even slightly, that the people sitting on the other side have not been cooperative. If the Government took any initiative, we neither opposed it nor expressed any doubt, rather we extended our full cooperation and gave necessary encouragement. But I regret to say that these 100 days have proved to be a period of digression in the matter of policy on Punjab and the people of Punjab as well as the whole country have to pay the price for it. Our sisters living there have to pay for it because they are not sure whether their husbands will return home alive in the evening as they are always apprehensive about it. A sister who had tied a 'Rakhi' on the wrist of her brother for providing protection to her is all the time apprehensive about his security. Hundreds of people from Punjab are migrating to Delhi and neighbouring States.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would urge the hon. Home Minister to kindly let us know as to how

many people from Punjab have migrated as refugees to Haryana and Delhi from the day he assumed power as compared to the period five months or four months prior to that or let it be three months or 100 days prior to that if not more. According to our information, we can certainly say that migration of people from Punjab had stopped during the last one year before the new Government came to power as they were quite confident that the Government in Delhi was taking very stringent steps against the terrorists and was fighting against them. But now people have become apprehensive..... (*Interruptions*)

He cannot believe the figures, which prove that during these 100 days of their assuming office, hundreds of refugees from Punjab have migrated to Delhi. These figures indicate that so far as Punjab is concerned the Government has not been successful to create a sense of security in the minds of the people. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Calling Attention is not meant for giving cat calls. You are a new Member, you do not know how a Calling Attention is taken up. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can put question after he finishes. It is applicable to you also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I consider myself fortunate that the hon. Deputy Prime Minister is present here. Previously his Chair used to be on that side, now it has shifted a bit to this side, so I was unable to locate him. I am sorry for that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second thing I would like to know is the number of innocent lives lost due to terrorist violence in Punjab in the one hundred days before the present Government assumed power? After the new Government came to power with the blessings of Ch. Devi Lal, how many persons were

killed during these one hundred days? My allegation is that during these one hundred days the number of persons killed have been four times more. How many terrorists and other persons were killed in the police encounter? I would like the hon. Minister to clarify as to how many policemen were killed during one hundred days before the new Government came to power and after his party came to power how many policemen, para Military Personnel and Central and State Government employees have been killed during one hundred days?

The President's rule ended in Punjab on 11th May. This is our unanimous view that Punjab is our pride, the people of Punjab have contributed in boosting the prestige of our country and have played a key role in the freedom struggle. They have made highest sacrifices and have worked hard in building a new India and we all are very proud of them. We are very proud of all the people of Punjab whether they are Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims or women. All of us want peace in Punjab whether we belong to the ruling party or the Opposition, whether we are Members of Parliament or not, we all want peace in Punjab. Before Lok Sabha polls they used to tell us that we did not want to hold elections in Punjab because we were scared. Now when the President rule is ending on 11th May, I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he intends to hold elections in Punjab and if so, when? Has he formulated any policy in this regard to normalize the situation? I feel that the Government has not formulated any policy for Punjab. They just pick up some points in adhoc manner. Had they formulated any policy on Punjab, they would have raised their voice against the demand for Khalistan. Neither the Government nor their party criticised it. When Sikh Student Federation talked of constituting Khalsa Panchayats, neither the Government nor their party reacted to it.....

SHRIMATI RAJINDER KAUR BULAFIA (Ludhiana): The Khalsa Panchayats were formed when many persons were killed in fake encounters at the instance of the then Government..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: When it was demanded that the killers of General Vaidya be released, the ruling party never reacted to it. When Shri Simaranjeet Singh Mann said that he was ready to mediate between Pakistan and India, and Punjab would not be allowed to become battlefield and till the Punjab problem was solved our youths would not help terrorists, their party never reacted. At times there are press reports that talks are going on between Ch. Devi Lal and Shri Badal and the latter will be made either a Union Minister or Chief Minister of Punjab and sometimes there are reports that Shri V.P. Singh and Shri Mann are engaged in an exercise and an effective formula is being evolved to solve the problem of Punjab. Sometimes, we hear that the Prime Minister is working towards solving the Punjab Problem through the mediation of some other friends. May I know as to what is Government's policy or formula or political move under which it wants to solve the Punjab problem? We welcome the statement made by the Government yesterday that terrorist will be strictly dealt with. In our time, we too had adopted a tough and uncompromising stand against the terrorists and were determined to provide whatever financial assistance that is require for the development of Punjab. The same thing has been said in yesterday's statements and we welcome it. Does the Government intend to extend President's Rule in Punjab? Is the Government trying to find another way out to solve the Punjab problem? If so, what are the steps taken in that direction? I request the Government to specify its course of action before the House. I would like to draw the hon. Home Minister's attention towards 2-3 other points. Our Government had set up village defence committees in which villagers themselves came forward to protect the entire village. There have been a number of incidents where villagers have tried to save innocent persons from being killed by terrorists. People belonging to one religion, sacrificed themselves to protect innocent persons of another religion from being killed. But this Government has reportedly either dismantled or rendered those defence committees defunct. Reports have also been

received that recruitment is being made to the Home Guards to involve youth in the protection of their families. Sir, it is common knowledge that the morale of the police and paramilitary forces has fallen. According to the news reports, the killings in Abohar took place near a police station but no policemen tried to reach the scene of the crime in time in order to fire at or apprehend the terrorists. This goes to prove that the morale of the police has really fallen.

13.02 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN *in the Chair*]

When the S.P., Shri Govind Ram was killed neither the Prime Minister nor the Home Minister expressed any sympathy. But they as well as their supporters say that the police is working effectively under the D.G. of Police. The people are being harassed under police pressure. The Government has become complacent as if there is no danger from our neighbour. All these things have created doubts of different kinds. May I know what are the steps being taken by the Government to boost the morale of the Police? Lastly, a number of terrorist gang took shelter in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh and continued to kill people in Punjab. Then there have been instances of killings by the terrorist in Nainital also. Terrorists are now striking in other parts of the country. They are bringing arms from Punjab. The Government has said in its statement that the solution to this problem lies in checking the influx of arms from across the border. So what are the steps being taken by the Government in this direction? The hon. Minister is requested to clarify these points.

[English]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry that my friend Shri Harish Rawat had tried to compete in failures as to whether there was a bigger failure in hundred days during their Government or hundred days thereafter. But, I do not think that any lost life is going to come

back due to that competition or comparison. So, I think, there should be no competition in failures with regard to less murders or more murders. It should not be treated as a party affair.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I said that they have no policy regarding Punjab.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Things have become worse now.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: It should not be made as a party affair. Political and criminal elements are also involved in it. I would like to know that. The statement of the Home Minister does not mention that as to whether any concerted effort has been made to isolate the hardcore criminals and the smugglers, who are there under the political cover of Khalistan and resorting to several types of crimes. I would like to know as to whether they have been able to isolate them and deal with them as hardened criminals, murderers and smugglers. They have bribed certain sections of our administrative machinery also. As it happens in other parts of this country, it is happening there also.

Now, I come to the political aspect. The Home Minister has very correctly said that the political initiative is to win over those who have been misled and to concede the legitimate aspirations and demands of the people of Punjab. Sarkaria Commission made some recommendations. I am talking not only about Punjab but about the whole country with regard to more powers for the States. In that context, has the Government formulated any policy so that the people in Punjab may get a bit more satisfied? That may help in our political approach.

Sir, there are very honest Khalistanis-educated and honest youth-prepared to give their lives but foolishly convinced that they are not Indians. The Khalsa Panth was founded by the last Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh. He was born in Patna. We have got Patna Sahib Gurudwara in Patna. That is the first Gurudwara of the Sikh Panth in the world. Would these Khalistanis like to

exclude that Gurudwara from their Khalistan? The last Gurudwara, where Guru Gobind Singh died is in Nanded on the border of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Would they also exclude that? If they exclude both, then what sort of Khalistan will it be? If they include both, then most of India will be included. Then, there can be a fight only for the name, whether it will be Hindustan or Khalistan- not much of a difference. So, I think, a large section of the people can be convinced and won over.

Here, some Members of Parliament, who have been elected, have not yet taken the oath. Has the Government decided upon anything? Has this Parliament decided upon anything? They were elected but on the issue of oath, there are some problems. I would like to know whether the solution of these problems will also help in our political initiative in Punjab. If so, what steps are being taken in that context?

Again I say that it is my feeling. I have been to Amritsar recently, held public meetings and talked to the people. Most of the rural parts in the border areas of Punjab are being ruled almost by a parallel government in the name of Khalsa Panchayats. It has never been like this earlier. It is a very tragic situation but that is a part of the reality. We cannot wish it away. That is there.

It is also a fact that certain sections of officers, who are firmly dealing with them, are a bit demoralised. They feel that if something happens tomorrow, they will have to pay with their services or whatever it may be. On the other hand, they are facing the bullets of the terrorists also. Certain demoralisation has already taken place. Is the Government going to firmly say something about those police officers or the administrative officers who stand firmly for national unity and who firmly deal with the terrorists-whether they are political terrorists or criminals? They will be serving the cause of the nation. Will they be rewarded and not penalised, whatever may be the political settlement or whatever may be the outcome tomorrow? Is the Government going to declare in this House about

[Sh. Bhogendra Jha]

this because that is the need of the hour?

Similarly, with regard to village defence forces, I would say that it was a good initiative. I think, the Government has to make it up. Whatever may be the number of policeman or the army men, we cannot cover every village or every family. But there are patriotic people among the Sikhs. I wish this House must congratulate the people of Punjab. Despite all the provocations they have never resorted to mass killings or communal riots. Still we believe some criminals do it, some terrorists do it. All glory to the people of Punjab and to the Sikhs in particular. I think, the House and the Government must congratulate these people. In such a situation, I would like to say again that whatever is happening is happening. I don't want to blame this Government or that Government. However, we have failed to improve the situation. I am not in a position to ask you to do this or that, or to make me the Prime Minister, and only then you will succeed. Whatever may be the position, a firm policy should be declared and steps should be taken so that no more lives are lost in Punjab or elsewhere. The people of Punjab should get their legitimate rights along with the rest of the country. I think the Government will make a policy statement in this regard.

PROF. N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not like to speak on this subject from a political angle as nobody from this side has done. This subject is not a party issue. When we quote some statistical figures, it is not in competition with what we did or what is happening now. During the last few months since the new regime, 555 civilians, 80 policemen, 164 terrorists have been killed and 28 have been kidnapped. The statement of the hon. Minister has indicated very prominently that he has not been able to do anything or has not been able to project as to what will be the future as far as this issue is concerned. The Home Minister has admitted this. Now, I would like to mention in this connection that a few good steps that have been taken by the

last regime have been undone and if at all there are no major solutions during the last regime, it was not to be blamed. Everybody has admitted that this is a very complicated problem. And such a problem will necessarily take some time to be solved. But unless we take proper steps, we will not succeed. We do not know how much time it will take to find a solution. When we raise any criticism or charge or question about anything, much more so about the question of Punjab or Kashmir, the stock reply by this regime is that they do not know how much time it will take. It is hardly 100 days or so since this regime has come to power. I do not mind about the period. We can understand the difficulties they face. But they are yet to make a start. Whether it is 100 days or months or years, unless they take the first step which is correct, they will not succeed in finding a solution. Gandhiji had said that if the first step which we take is on the correct line, then the second step also ought to be correct. Now, we would like to know as to what is their first step. The hon. Home Minister has met the Governor of Punjab. The previous Governor was just removed disgracefully and a new Governor is posted. Now, he himself knows that much of the criticism is against the present Governor because of bureaucracy and other things. The question now is of revamping the entire law and order structure. The Home Minister has said today to some members of the Press that he is going to do so. What are the basic considerations on which revamping is to be done? We like that better steps should be taken in this regard. Nothing has been spelt out as to what are the steps to be taken. The Home Minister has also admitted in his statement that there are infiltrators from Pakistan and fresh recruits particularly from the Bhindranwala group who have become very active during the last few months. This has been approved by the Government through its reports. I would like to club this issue with the issue of Kashmir because Punjab and Kashmir cannot be separated now. We say that Punjab is slightly side-tracked because of the serious issues coming up in Kashmir. But so far as infiltration is concerned, so far as training by Pakistan by

way of arms and money is concerned, Punjab and Kashmir should be taken together. We would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what concrete steps he is going to take to protect ourselves from those infiltrators, those who are getting training in Pakistan and thereby improve the situation. Let there be a diplomatic contact and a statement should be made on the floor of the House that the Government of India had taken this step with the Pakistan Government, the Benazir regime. Time and again they have assured us that there would be no infiltrators sent from Pakistan, no training would be given to anybody, no arms or money would be supplied in order to encourage terrorism etc. on our soil. To the new regime in India, Pakistan Government had also assured that they cannot forget what promises they had made to the earlier regime. However, from the recent happenings it is very clear and they have shown by their actions that Pakistan has gone back on their promises. We would like to know what concrete steps the Government of India has taken or is going to take.

The other aspect is with regard to the bureaucratic element in Punjab. What changes would the present Government like to make there through the Governor for the revamping of the administrative machinery and bringing about an improvement in the law and order situation there?

What steps are the Government going to take to remove the fear psychosis among most of the people in Punjab?

The supporters and the associated parties of the Government, like the Bhartiya Janta Party, had expressed their concern about the recent happenings in Punjab and the way the things were being handled by the present Government. When we criticise the Government on these issues, we are not at all taking a partisan attitude or trying to make a political capital out of it. We always look at it as a national issue. I would like to know what steps have been taken by the present Government to stop infiltration from Pakistan at the highest as well as the military level. The basic things to be considered are

revamping of the law and order situation, creation of confidence in the minds of the people and removal of the fear psychosis. We would like to know what steps have been taken or are being taken by the Government in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): The Punjab problem is one of the complex problems facing our country today. The National Front Government had said that it would solve this problem but it seems that this problem is assuming mammoth proportions day-by-day. The hon. Home Minister held an all-party meeting on the Kashmir issue but the situation in Kashmir has not changed. It would be better if an all-party meeting is held on the Punjab crisis also so that all leaders can get together and look for a fresh approach toward solving the problem. The Government has acknowledged the fact that Pakistan is encouraging terrorists and is supplying arms and ammunition to them. The Prime Minister of Pakistan Mrs. Benazir Bhutto is indulging in an anti-India campaign. May I know what action is being taken by the Government to counter it? The previous Government headed by Rajiv Gandhi used to speak out against this. I urge the present Government to do likewise. Why is the Government feeling that it is weak? The Parliament and the masses of India are with them. The Government should take a step that discourages Pakistan from indulging in anti-India publicity. The previous Government had planned to set up barbed-wire fencing on the country's borders. This Government should go ahead with that plan. Let this matter be discussed with Pakistan in clear terms. A law may be framed for this if needed. We assure the Government of our support.

The hon. Home Minister personally visited Punjab in connection with the incidents which took place on the 20th. For this, I would like to thank him. Our party is prepared to offer its full support in solving the Punjab problem. May I know if those responsible for the incidents on the 20th in Punjab

[Sh. Dileep Singh Bhuria]

have been arrested? What was the motive behind their action? The poor and peace loving people of this country should be given the opportunity to progress. Who are these people who are disturbing the peace in our country? The Government should trace the origin of such elements. I am not saying this from a political viewpoint. I am mainly interested in the well-being of our country. I want that the citizens of India, be they of any caste, creed or religion should live happily and march towards progress. It is good to note that many people have held talks with the hon. Minister and that he will give his comments on the same.

The elections to the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak, Committee are to be held. Let the Government have a dialogue with the Akalis and find a solution. Let us go a bit further than mere paperwork. I urge the Government to take the Parliament and the country's masses into confidence. Hon. Members of Parliament would be ready to help in any way they can.

The Government should take steps to boost the morale of the police by extending all assistance to the families of the policemen. The dependents of those killed by the terrorists should be given every possible assistance by the Government. A policy should be framed regarding this and placed before Parliament. Steps should be taken to ensure that the crisis does not deepen further. We want peace in Punjab. The Government should think of how the problems afflicting Punjab can be solved so that the State can make progress. With these words, I thank you.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED:
Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Harish Rawat raised some questions on the issue of Punjab. His first question was about the policy of the National Front Government and how it want to solve the problem of Punjab. I do not think there is much difference between taking action against the terrorists and taking political initiative. Secondly, he raised the ques-

tion of Hon. Prime Minister's visit to Amritsar. Leave aside terrorism, the entire country is proud of the people of Punjab. Farmers of Punjab toil day and night to feed the country and the soldiers of Punjab have laid down their lives in the defence of the country whenever there has been a foreign invasion. That is why the Prime Minister and the National Front Government thought of giving a healing touch to their wounded sentiments. He went to the extent of saying that we will have to wash the blood soaked soil of Punjab with our tears, irrespective of whether that blood was of a Sikh or a Hindu. It was the blood of an Indian. I do not think that our policy is weak. It should be the effort of every democratic Government and every political party in the country to ultimately win the confidence of the people. That is why we called the all-party meeting on Punjab in which different political parties including the Congress participated. We took some steps which included repealing of the 59th Constitutional Amendment. Governor of Punjab also passed similar orders. If we have to fight terrorism, there should not be any face encounters. Innocents persons against whom there is no evidence, should be released. Army deserters of Punjab numbering 412 have been rehabilitated, as per our promise. I have with me the full details about them. It is true that there was a change in the atmosphere after the Lok Sabha elections, and those police officers, who fought against terrorism and did their duty honestly, felt that as the Assembly elections were round the corner they should not use much force. Therefore, there was some slackness in the security forces to deal with the situation. And then the leader of Akali Dal (Mann), who had been in jails won the elections. The previous Government was forced to release Simranjeet Singh Mann who was arrested for conspiracy in Indira Gandhi Murder case. The Government was forced to release him keeping in view the verdict of the people. How can we deal with the situation under these circumstances? The persons who symbolised the Rajiv-Longowal Accord were also not spared by the terrorists and were removed from the scene. Whenever a beginning is made to

normalise the situation politically and make the atmosphere congenial, some known persons like Manochahal and others, who get help from Pakistan, are highly motivated and talk in terms of Khalistan only, try to destabilise the situation. We are making efforts in this regard and some hon. Members have also given some suggestions about it. Shri Rawat has said that Home Guards have been disbanded in Punjab, I would like to tell him that no unit of Home Guards has been disbanded in Punjab.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: They have been disbanded.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: You are aware that no Home Guards unit has been disbanded.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: You have done so in the Village Defence Committees.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: It is not so. Secondly a mention has been made about the infiltrators. It is true that some steps were taken on the Government's instructions to fence the border. This border is about 120 kilometres long and it is going to be fenced. Thereafter, fencing will be carried out in border areas of Jammu-Kashmir. It is necessary to continue fencing in Punjab. The whole border, which stretches upto five to six thousand kilometres, cannot be fenced, but the vulnerable points will be fenced. Similarly flood lights have been installed on the border which stretch over 100 to 150, kilometres. For patrolling and combing operations, pickets have been placed in such places where terrorists can take shelter. Identity cards have been made compulsory for the persons living near the border areas, so that infiltrators could be caught. Similarly, arms are also being smuggled into the country by the smugglers. In a way, it is an interaction of arms and smugglers. Therefore, it is necessary to firmly deal with the smugglers on Punjab and Rajasthan border. We have also said that there should be coordination between the paramilitary forces like CRPF and B.S.F. and Punjab forces. In the matter of law and order or in arresting a

terrorist, civil administration has no authority. The S.P. is authorised for this work. But the Governor has ordered that wherever such a situation arises, the Deputy Commissioner should have the supremacy. The Deputy Commissioner's order should be followed in all the issues concerning law and order and economic development. In every district coordination committee and grievances committee has been set up, in which members of main political parties and prominent citizens have been represented. An All party Advisory Committee has been constituted on the State level, in which the representatives of all the parties including the Akali Dal (Mann) have been included. The recent incidents took place in Abohar in Ferozepur district.

You may remember the incident which took place before the Lok Sabha elections in which some students were gunned down while they were sleeping in the hostel in University. For them, it was just a question of creating an atmosphere of terror. Similarly, innocent people were gunned down in the buses also. In the same way, innocent people were killed in the Abohar market chowk, where thousands of people gather. In this situation, the people are asking for night patrolling because in the day time, checking of the bus passengers and other people is done by the check posts in Abohar and Ferozepur. So the police and the security people will do their duty in the day time, but there is a need for night patrolling also. Orders have been issued to carry out combing operations in areas like Faridkot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Taran-Taran where the number of terrorists is more and their activities are more intense. Directives have also been issued to increase the number of police pickets in these areas. The intention behind it is not such as has been made out by our friends. As regards the encounters, which took place in the last three months, 126 terrorists were killed and 53 arrested in January. In February, 95 innocent persons lost their lives and 44 terrorists were killed and upto 17th March, 114 persons have been killed by the terrorists, 38 terrorists have been killed and 37 arrested. Besides,

[Sh. Mufti Mohammad Saheed]

huge quantity of ammunition has been seized. An All Party Advisory Committee was constituted on the issue of Kashmir which held discussion on the question in a meeting. A delegation visited Kashmir and after its return, it has become clear to me that the situation in Kashmir and in Punjab is different. The silver line in Punjab is that there is communal harmony in the State and all the political parties whether it is Akali Dal, Congress, C.P.M. or B.J.P. are functioning there. You can talk to the people there, you can hold a public meeting, but in Kashmir people have become more alienated. There we would have to start the political process rather vigorously. Today, when we say that we would hold elections for Assembly there, people reply that they don't want elections. There is a need to create proper atmosphere there; but here in Punjab a momentum has been created and people want peace, they want to face the terrorists; but fear-psychosis has taken its roots there. We should adopt a two-pronged strategy to handle it. On the one hand, we shall have to come in close contact with the people and on the other hand, we shall have to contain the terrorists to earn the confidence of people. Even if the people in Kashmir do not understand that the people who were in National Conference of Congress have changed their mentality; still there is a fear-psychosis, fear of terrorists is there. Likewise, we will have to give priority in Punjab, at present the people are saying that they want peace first, so first peace and only then arises the need for creating atmosphere for other things.

Similarly, much has been said about the Government of Punjab. I talked to him. This is right that the people in the administration previously enjoyed faith of the people and they had the capability to deal with the situation in a better way. I would like to tell about Punjab that if we ask the Government to transfer all the officers there, I don't think that it would bring any improvement. But this step is necessary. One reason for this is, when the representative Government is not there, the police officers and administrators have

no accountability and they try to create such an atmosphere which can facilitate the continuance of their Police-rule and in this way people are harassed unnecessarily and the innocent people suffer a lot. Alongwith the criminals, innocent people are also nabbed, there are also officers who are men of integrity and who have fulfilled their duties in a dignified manner. My submission is that such persons need to be encouraged in the Punjab administration. I don't envisage any other method. This is a complicated issue and there can be no ready-made solution for it and if it is to be solved the process is long and certainly no short-term solution will do. We have already seen the results of holding elections when Mr. Barnala was the Chief Minister. He was elected and the people also took part in the election; but afterwards the representative Government had to be dismissed out of compulsion. We have mentioned about Mr. Barnala in the President's Address

[*English*]

that he is a great patriot.

[*Translation*]

but he was dismissed after two months. He is a great patriot. That was a representative Government. I don't say that there should not be a representative Government, rather there is a need to earn the confidence of the people.

[*English*]

The ultimate aim is to get the confidence of the people of Punjab.

[*Translation*]

I would like to say that there can be no other solution than this. There is no other short cut than this and it is also true that we would like to hold talks with the people who will be going to cast their votes and the parties who will be taking part in the elections. We would like to consult all the parties and ask them to tell us how the atmosphere can be improved. You

can bring round the people with the help of a democratic dose, leave all such matters to them. But ultimately, I would say that there is no alternative to the elections. Governor's Rule and Central Rule has been going on for a very long time, but to form any new strategy to attain the objective, I feel that some more time is needed so that we can interact among ourselves and create a proper atmosphere. Therefore, I feel that there is a need to interact with all the national parties to decide on the matter as to how to set right the matter administratively in Punjab. We would like to talk to them to decide how to start the political process there. I again express my gratitude to all of you.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): Only one minute, Sir.

SHRI CHAIRMAN: Are you yielding to him, Mr. Home Minister?

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: All right, Sir.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I only want to ask the Home Minister one thing. Three months ago, they used words and phrases which I do not find in today's statement. The policy seems to have come back full circle. Is it because of the policy that they followed in the last three months and the change they brought about in Punjab, that we have the highest number of civilian killings—170 persons in the first twenty-one days of March,—after Operation Black Thunder? Can we say it is attributed to their three months' policy which seems to have come back full circle?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Don't treat it as a precedent, Sir.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Sir, it should not be a precedent, but I will quote the figures to the hon. Member to show how much graphic change is there in it. In 1987, the number of innocent people killed by terrorists was 910 and in 1988, the num-

ber of people killed was 349.

I give the figures below:

1987	910
1988	1949

In 1989, it has come down. That is all right.

[Translation]

Please compare these with the figures of Operation Black Thunder and Operation Blue Star and then see these graphically also.

13.46 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(1) **Need to set up a Solvent Plant in Bichhia Bhawal Area of Mandla District in Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mandla district in Madhya Pradesh is a 'no industry district'. Some industries are being set up on the border of Jabalpur district after obtaining permission to set up industries in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh under the policy of Government to open industries in the 'no industry districts'. As a result, only the skilled and unskilled labour of Jabalpur district are being benefited, whereas the inhabitants and the labour of Mandla district are deprived of any benefits. All the Government facilities granted to the no industry districts are also being enjoyed by the inhabitants of Jabalpur district only.

In this regard, my submission is that the seeds of Sal tree are available in the backward area of Bichhia Bhawal of Mandla district as there are dense forests of Sal tree