

submarines to our advantage. This is where we have done well to having bought from them the outfit which will give you more submarines, having rigged them up ourselves. Not only that, you will be able to make with effort your own submarines, second to none. Because our technicians, our scientists are in no way inferior to anybody else. So, these are the four or five points that I wanted to bring to your notice.

Lastly I shall have to quote only two points which show that there has been no commission. That is how I assess and I find myself correct when I assess that. In that, our own Hon. Defence Minister gave this out in his speech of 21st April 1988. Here is the quotation which is of interest. In one case this is what has come to light and I believe it as correct, that is about 7% commission. I quote:

"HDW, who were addressed on June 27, 1987, replied on July 9, 1987 that the information regarding payment of 7% commission to Indian agents had surprised them. The information, they added, was not correct and could only have been caused by a misunderstanding. HDW stated that the negotiations in regard to the submarine contract of December 11, 1981 had been held directly with the Indian Government and no Indian agents were engaged."

That is one part of it which I was interested. My own information, the knowledge that I gained, the things that I have listened from both the sides confirm that this statement is correct.

The other one is a very small and short one. I quote:

"In a further communication dated November 27, 1987, HDW declared

categorically that no commission was paid to any Indian or non-Indian agent in India or abroad."

This is the sum total of lit. The explanations have been given by my colleague verbatim from A to Z. This the crux, what I have laid down before the Hon. House with full conviction and knowledge that this is the truth and quite the truth; no speculations about it; no conjectures about it; this is something which is very correct. I have faith in the people who are working on this one. I have faith in the armed forces Generals and others who are working behind the Ministry of Defence.

With these words I thank you very much for giving me the time.

SHRI K.C.PANT: I will speak one sentence today Sir. That is that many friends have brought in the Bofors debate. I would have dealt with many of the questions that were raised today had there not been so many interruptions during my reply on that day. If they don't want to leave many questions unanswered in this debate, the best way to ensure it is not to interrupt too much tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister will continue tomorrow.

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18.04 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. KILLING OF 13 PERSONS AT A MARRIAGE CELEBRATION IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF PANIPAT (HARYANA) ON 7.5.1988.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Sir, it is with a great sense of sorrow and anguish that I rise to

[Sh. Buta Singh]

inform this House of the ghastly and tragic incident in Panipat on the night of 7th of May.

On 7th May, 1988, at about 11.30 PM, 3 or 4 terrorists struck at a marriage party in the outskirts of Panipat City with AK-47 rifles. The marriage party belonged to Bagri Lohar, a nomadic tribe, and at the time of the incident, the people were seeing a film on the video. The terrorists came from the fields and escaped after committing the crime. The incident resulted in the death of 13 persons including 3 women and injuries to 26 including 5 children and 5 women. The injured are undergoing medical treatment and are reported to be out of danger. 92 empty cartridges have been recovered from the scene of crime.

An ex-gratia grant of Rs.20,000/- to the next of kin of each of the dead and Rs.10,000/- to each of the injured has been announced by the Chief Minister, Haryana who visited the spot. Rs.10,000 each has also been sanctioned to 2 brides whose marriages were to be solemnized. A high level meeting of police and Civil Officers under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister has been held at the State level to review the situation. A meeting of the Peace Committee consisting of residents of Panipat City was addressed by Chief Minister and the citizens urged to maintain peace and communal harmony.

This is the second incident of terrorist attack in less than one month in Haryana. The Members will recall that on the 9th of April, Dr. Harnam Singh, MLA belonging to the CPI was attacked at Shahbad, District Kurukshetra killing his son, daughter-in-law and another relatives. Dr. Harnam Singh, his wife and 2 others were injured.

I have held a meeting today with the Directors General of Police of Punjab and Haryana, Commissioner of Police, Delhi,

Directors General in the CRPF and BSF, Director, Intelligence Bureau and officers of the Home Ministry. Security arrangements against terrorist activities were reviewed. A general alert has been issued to all neighbouring States. 3 companies of para-military forces are being sent to Haryana to assist the State Government. In order to meet the threat posed by sophisticated arms of the terrorists, some modern arms have been supplied to the Government of Haryana and some more will be supplied shortly.

There has been a spurt of terrorist activities in Punjab also and I have already informed Hon'ble Members of some of the details of the Action Plan we are implementing to combat terrorist activities in Punjab. Action has already been initiated on all the points. Steps are already being taken for more effective policing of the border. The police set up is being reorganised and better arms and equipment have been provided. This has already started yielding results and the security forces have been able to eliminate some hard core terrorists in recent weeks. A comprehensive programme to mobilize the masses against terrorism is being worked out by the Punjab Government and will be implemented with the cooperation of all political parties.

The incident of 7th May is an example of the extent to which the terrorists can go in order to achieve their nefarious objectives. It is a grim reminder that terrorism is a nationwide problem and has to be fought not only in Punjab but everywhere. We are maintaining close contact with all the State Governments and I assure the House that we shall do our utmost to meet this challenge posed by the terrorists.

I am confident that this House will join me in condemning such acts of violence aimed at creating disharmony and misunderstanding amongst different sections of society. We sympathize with the bereaved

families. The extraordinary quality of our people is that in the face of the gravest provocation they have maintained communal harmony. I appeal to all the communities and all sections of public opinion to continue to uphold the spirit of communal harmony and peace and continue to work with one another in order to defeat the evil designs of terrorists and anti-national forces.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now adjourn to re-assemble tomorrow at 1100 hours.

18.09 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven  
of the Clock on Tuesday, May 10, 1988  
Vaisakha 20, 1910 (Saka)*