

such an arrangement not be made under which the potato kept in the cold storage could also be insured, for which 50 paise could be realised extra as cold storage charges? In this way, a fund could be created for providing compensation to the farmers for their farm products which are damaged due to non-availability of power. As there is no arrangement for getting compensation, the farmers feel difficulties. Such an arrangement should, therefore, be made whereby the farmers could get compensation for their agricultural products in case of damage to them.

I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards one more point. Just now an Hon. Member, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, had said that even if vegetables were sold at the rate of Rs. 5/ or Rs. 8/ per kilo the farmer did not get more than one to one and a half rupee per kilo. All the profit is pocketed by the middlemen. The vegetables are sold at a price which is fixed by the middlemen, but the farmer does not get any profit. It is also necessary that some action should be taken in this regard.

With these suggestion, I support these Demands for Grants and request the Hon. Minister that he should take action on the points to which I have drawn his attention.

17.06 hrs.

STATEMENT-RE : INCIDENT AT
 AMRITSAR ON 19th APRIL, 1985.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (Shri S.B. CHAVAN) : Sir, it is with a deep sense of sorrow and anguish that I have to inform this House regarding the attempt made on the life of Shri R.L. Bhatia, Ex. Member of Parliament, at his residence at Amritsar, on 19th April, 1985, at about 8.45 A.M. resulting in serious injuries to him and the death of another person namely Shri Virendra Kumar, who had come to meet him. According to details received from the Government of Punjab, two un-identified Sikh youths fired at Shri R.L. Bhatia and at Shri Virendra

Kumar. Shri Bhatia received three bullet injuries on the left jaw, right side of the neck and on the back of the right shoulder. He was removed to the hospital where he was operated upon. He is now reported to be out of danger. Shri Virendra Kumar who received bullet injuries succumbed to his injuries. The culprits after committing the crime managed to escape. Immediately on receiving information about this incident senior Police Officers rushed to the site of the incident and organised intensive combing operations for apprehending the culprits. These efforts are being pursued vigorously. About 70 persons have been rounded up for interrogation.

2. It is unfortunate that Shri Bhatia who was provided with a gunman for his personal security since 27th April, 1984, returned the gunman on 4th December, 1984, informing that he did not need his services.

3. As the Hon'ble Members are aware that Government has accorded the highest priority to the maintenance of law and order to check the terrorist activities in Punjab and also to find a solution to the problem. As, against 827 violent incidents during the first half of 1984 resulting in the death of 360 persons, there were 427 such incidents during the second half of 1984, in which 77 persons lost their lives. During the current year upto 19.4.1985 there were 135 violent incidents in which 11 persons died. As a result of the constant endeavour of the authorities to further check such activities in the State, over 1700 extremists were arrested in criminal cases from January 1984 to March, 1985.

4. It is unfortunate that after the releases of Akali leaders, some of them have chosen to indulge in intemperate statements. These statements have certainly not helped in advancement towards normalcy in Punjab. There have also been disturbing reports regarding the propaganda being carried out by Ragis and religious preachers at congregations organised in religious places in the State.

5. The Government shares the concern of the Hon'ble Members about the activities of extremists. The Government has already announced the holding of a Judicial Inquiry into the allegations with regard to the incidents of organised violence in Delhi following

the assassination of the late Prime Minister, Smt. Indra Gandhi, lifting of the ban on the All India Sikh Students Federation, and review of the cases of persons held in detention with a view to make further releases. It is unfortunate experience that whenever efforts are underway for finding any solution, extremists in Punjab indulge in violent activities in order to impede progress of these efforts.

6. The Government is fully alive to the situation. Various measures have been taken to contain terrorist activities. These include police protection to known targets of the extremists, identification of sensitive areas, intensive police patrolling, recovery of illicit arms and ammunition by organising special raids and combing operations, extensive checks in vulnerable areas, strengthening of police machinery and streamlining of the intelligence set up. The situation in the State is under constant watch and is being regularly reviewed at the highest level.

7. Hon'ble Members would agree that terrorist activities have no place in a democracy and that issues must be resolved through discussions only. I am sure that the House will agree that terrorism and violence should not be allowed to have a premium in resolving disputes, and will join me in condemning acts of violence. I seek the cooperation of Members and leaders of various parties and groups in maintaining conditions of peace in the State.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntum): And the Press also.

17.11 hrs.

STATEMENT-RE : REPORTED STAY OF SHRI DEEDAR SINGH BAINS AND YOGI HARBHAJAN SINGH IN THE RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN IN 1983.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (Shri S.B. CHAVAN): Sir, During the debate in the House on 18th April, 1985 Shri K.K. Tewari mentioned that Shri Deedar Singh

Bains and Yogi Harbhajan Singh had stayed as guests in the Rashtrapati Bhavan in 1983. President's Secretariat have informed the Home Ministry that these two persons had not stayed in the Rashtrapati Bhavan at any time.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur): A very serious situation has developed in Gujarat. A police man has been lynched. The High Court has banned the entry of the Police into certain areas and according to my information, the Policemen have refused to work. I demand the Home Minister should make a statement on this matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After collecting the information he will make the statement.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): I will collect the information and if I succeed in getting all the information required, possibly tomorrow I will be able to make a statement.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1985-86—Contd.

[English]

Ministry of Food and Civil
Supplies—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): I have heard with very great interest the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. Nearly 20 Hon. Members have taken part in the discussion. I am grateful for their interest in the important work this Ministry has undertaken.

While most of the criticism from the Hon. Members was very constructive and has benefited me a lot, some members unfortunately showed a sense of frustration, thoughtlessness and cynicism. They could see nothing right with the functioning of the