

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : How can item 14 be taken up, till 12 and 13 are disposed of ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That is what I am saying. Item 12 and 13 may be discussed first and then Item 14 may be taken up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now adjourn for Lunch.

13 04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minute past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : May I say that the Home Minister will come to this House shortly ? He is still answering the clarifications in the Rajya Sabha. With your kind permission may I read the two statements ?

On behalf of the Home Minister, may I make the statement regarding the situation in Punjab ?

14.03½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE : KILLING OF SOME PERSONS TRAVELLING BY BUS FROM MUKTSAR TO CHANDIGARH ON 25.7.1986

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : My colleague informed the House on 25th July, 1986 about the

ghastly killing of innocent persons travelling in a bus which left Muktsar for Chandigarh at 5.00 A.M. on 25th July, 1986. On getting the information about this incident I immediately left for Punjab for visiting the scene of the incident. Now more facts about the incident have become available. The ill-fated bus started from Muktsar for Chandigarh at 5.00 A.M. on 25th July, 1986 carrying about 75 passengers. Four armed terrorists boarded the bus from the starting point. When the bus reached near village Labaniawali, the terrorists hijacked the bus towards Kaniawali village. The terrorists shot at 21 passengers resulting in death of 14 persons and injury to 7 persons belonging to two communities. After committing the crime the culprits escaped in a tractor. Police Officers rushed to the scene of the incident. Combing operations by para-military forces and the police were started to apprehend the culprits. All the police stations in the State have been alerted and intensive police patrolling is being conducted. Raids are also being carried out on the possible hide outs of extremists. The neighbouring States have also been alerted for apprehension of the culprits.

The State Government have announced an ex-gratia grant of Rs. 20,000/- to the next of kin of the persons killed and Rs. 1,000/- plus medical expenses to each person injured in the incident.

I have discussed the matter with the Chief Minister of Punjab and have asked him to take immediate steps to track down the terrorists involved in this case.

At the request of the State Government a Flag March by the Army is being arranged at Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Fategarh Churian, Batala and Tarn Taran.

All efforts are being made to nab the culprits involved in this incident. The Government is fully determined to curb terrorist activities and to bring such elements to book. Under no circumstances will such activities be tolerated. I request the Hon'ble Members and Leaders of various parties and organisations to cooperate in maintaining peace and harmony in the State.