

village in Krishna district on Muniyeru River on national highway No. 9 was damaged on 14th May, 1985 due to collapse of a span resulting in serious obstruction to the traffic. The traffic was diverted through Kanchikacherla-Madhira-Nandigama route which is 60 kms extra. Damaged structure was removed and the span is connected temporarily with daily bridge arrangement. It is such an important bridge that no an average daily four thousand vehicles used to pass over it out of which three thousand are commercial vehicles. Now only buses and cars are allowed while the trucks, tractors, truck-trailors etc. have to go over the alternative route mentioned above involving huge expenditure and waste of time. So, I request the Union Government to take immediate steps for construction of two lane bridge estimated to cost Rs. 4 crores to replace the old single lane bridge which is of national importance and an important link between North and South.

[*Translation*]

(viii) Drought and famine conditions in UP and need for Central help

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, famine situation conditions have developed due to severe drought in many parts of the country. Famine stricken Adivasis in some parts of Madhya Pradesh have resorted to lost and violent activities. Such a situation can arise in many parts of UP also. The Study Team sent by U P Government to study the drought condition has given comprehensive proposals to the Central Government to face drought and famine conditions. Some of these are short term proposals to deal with the situation immediately and some are long-term proposals. The State Government have asked for considerable funds for this purpose. It is generally seen that due to non availability of Central assistance in time, the people are unable to get timely relief.

I therefore, request the Union Agriculture Minister that financial assistance asked for by the U. P. Government to meet the drought and famine situation may be provided immediately.

12.18 hrs.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS (Punjab),  
1985-86 contd.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for the State of Punjab for 1985-86.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is a matter of happiness for all of us that this House will not have any need to discuss budget proposals of Punjab in future and for this we all would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister and Akali leadership. Punjab had been passing through a very critical period for the last few years, which has affected the economic condition of not only Punjab but the entire country. Not only the economic condition of the country but the unity and integrity of the country also were jeopardised. Today that sad period has ended. We all are having a sigh of relief. Like an able political leader, the Hon. Prime Minister has not cared about his ego and political animosity and has crossed all the possible hurdles and has proved that in future Rajiv ji will be remembered as one of the greatest Prime Ministers of this country. This achievement is the result of the efforts of our Prime Minister. We never imagined that it will happen so soon. It is also a matter of happiness that the Opposition has also supported the step taken by the Hon. Prime Minister and the attitude shown by Akali Dal. The entire country has supported it. We all hope that the agreement reached yesterday, about which an announcement has been made in this House, will have a favourable effect in Punjab also. It is not known how the persons, about whom doubt still prevails, will react to it. We pray to God that good sense may prevail upon them so that they may welcome this agreement. We also hope that the President of the other Akali Dal, Shri Joginder Singh will support Shri Longowal. Akali Dal and some people of Punjab, who were campaigning that they were isolated, will now come into the mainstream of the nation. Punjab

will again march ahead with firm determination in country's economic development as well as country's general growth. Sikhs and Hindus of Punjab will live in complete harmony.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Prime Minister had made announcement at Hussainiwala above many development programmes for Punjab and this would have very good impact on the economic development of the State. He made an announcement about setting up at a coach factory in Punjab, which was previously proposed to be set up in Gorakhpur, a very backward area of U.P. He made this announcement despite the fact that he comes from U.P. and he is very well aware of the poverty of Eastern U.P. I do feel sorry that U.P. lost the coach factory, but keeping in view the question of the entire nation and feelings of the people of Punjab, we welcome the announcement made by the Hon. Prime Minister. Not only we, but the people of entire U.P. welcome it.

The budget proposal, however, contain general proposals and only formalities are to be completed. I would like to submit to the Hon. Finance Minister that in case the peasants and entrepreneurs of Punjab need some more relief, the Central Government should provide it. The Central Government should also provide assistance to the popular Government as and when it is installed in Punjab because we know that the farmers and people of Punjab are very hard working. The entire country will welcome any step which will be taken by Government to help them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while discussing the political and social condition in Punjab, we want that the agreement just reached should not adversely affect the people of Haryana and other neighbouring States of Punjab which are directly concerned with this agreement.

We feel that these budget proposals will definitely yield desired results in Punjab. Besides, Punjab will play a valuable role in country's economic development, with these words I support these budget proposals.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am

very happy that ultimately Punjab problem has been solved. I, on behalf of my party, would like to congratulate the Prime Minister particularly because a solution to this problem has been found so soon as a result of his untiring efforts and broad-mindedness and an agreement had been reached yesterday. Simultaneously, I congratulate the Akali Dal leader Shri Longowal for his wisdom to signing the agreement Yesterday. Prior to this he was invited many times and every time he turned down the proposed agreement. Ultimately such conditions developed there on account of which he had to sign the agreement.

We should ensure that this agreement is implemented properly. It is possible that it may help in ending bloodshed. It is also possible that certain mischievous elements continue to indulge in creating trouble and obstruct implementation of this agreement in some way or the other. It is also apprehended that shiromani Akali Dal may not backout of this agreement due to fear. I, therefore, like to submit that it may not be taken that the problem has been solved by merely signing the agreement. I feel that unless leadership of moderate Akali Dal is strengthened, difficulties can be experienced in the implementation of this agreement and the matter can become work. The term of Punjab Assembly is about to expire. However, holding of elections is not possible there. Elections may be held there after 5 to 6 months. During this period an atmosphere should be created to hold elections peacefully.

I suggest that Akali Dal should be associated in forming the government there. If possible, they may be allowed to form government there. An interim government should be installed there as it can ensure implementation of the agreement. I feel that we should not act narrowmindedly. We should act in such a way that Akali Dal is strengthened so that it can get people's support for the agreement.

I would like to appeal to the terrorists also to abandon the path of terrorism as a lot of bloodshed has already taken place in Punjab. Now the time has come to put an end to terrorism. I am confident that past will be forgotten and everybody will work unitedly. The Chairman of the

[Shri C. Madhav Reddi]

Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee and Shri Badal are also with us. Akali Dal should be strengthened in order to establish peace.

While congratulating the hon. Prime Minister once again, I would like to request him to think-over whether an interim government can be installed in Punjab. It is necessary to hold elections immediately, but it is not possible. So, President's rule will have to be extended. Instead of extending the President's rule, we should amend the Constitution in such a way as to restore popular government there.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Chaudhry Ram Prakash is not there.

So, Mr. Das Munsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, to-day is a great day not only for the Congress members, but also for the entire House and the nation. I refer to the declaration made by our Prime Minister yesterday, on the Punjab issue. In the Centenary Year of the Indian National Congress, our party and the Government have once again shown to the people of this great country that we mean business, that we stand for the unity of the nation; and that to achieve it, we can afford to make any amount of sacrifice.

As you know, Sir, the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the late Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi had laid down their lives. Their martyrdom for the cause of unity of the country has not gone in vain; and people have responded to it.

On this occasion, while dealing with the Demands for Grants, I would not like to refer to matters of the past, because a new history is beginning, and we feel that it is the responsibility of all the sections of the House to see that the declaration gets support for its being put into action without any difficulty or trouble. To-day, I will appeal mainly to those young people of Punjab who, for reasons best known to them, indulge in violent acts and encourage the terrorist movement there.

Even the terrorists, during the time of our national struggle, liberation struggle, one after another, joined the call of Mahatma Gandhi, to leave the path of violence. I may quote one great leader, who later turned to be a saint, a philosopher and a real spirit of India—Swami Aurobindo. In the streets of Calcutta, editing the newspaper *Varde Matram*, it is Aurobindo, in the early stage, who tried to teach the youths of Calcutta and Bengal also in the voice which was at one time heard in China acquired by their leader that a rebel is justified and armed rebellion is the only solution. Later, he came to realise that that was not the solution and tried to find a path of peace. It inspired the entire people and they went in search of the divine soul of the nation and later he turned to be a great philosopher and saint, whom we all worship today. Similar was the case in the history of Indian civilization of Great Ashoka whose symbol in the emblem of the nation today is Dharma Ashoka. In the Kalinga war, he was known as Chanda Ashoka, but after the blood bath, he realised that peace did not lie here and the civilization what we mean in the real form did not stand for it. He also changed. So, I feel that this is the real spirit of India and the spirit that has been inherited from the past.

After the great sacrifice of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, our new leader, Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi took the entire burden on him and the great people of our country reposed their faith in him. Within six months, so nicely, accurately and effectively, he dealt with the issue in cooperation with all the political parties and other sections of the House. It again reminds us that once again India is on the right path. Therefore, I appeal to those young people of Punjab today, who indulged in violence for many days, may be out of exuberance or other feelings or faith, once again to respond not to Congress Party but to the spirit of Indian philosophy for the unity in diversity so that our task would be easier to reveal the country as well as Punjab. While I say of youths, I appeal to the government today especially those who are dealing in the Home Department in Punjab that in the real application of the document which was signed yesterday, much more now depends on the administration. The officers in the Home Department in

Punjab, the police personnel, at least by their behaviour, exchange of views, should create a good atmosphere and make them feel, those who indulged in violence, that we do not treat them as permanent enemies and hostile forces. By their exchange of talks inside the jail and outside the jail, they can really create a good climate by which they may realise that we are not treating them as our permanent enemies.

In Bengal, as you know, in the days of violence, when the so-called nationalist movement was on, a good number of young people left their study and joined the battle and took lives of the innocent people; and many of them now in Bengal are living peacefully joining in the constructive work in the rural reconstruction. They have changed the course and got this feeling and support from the political force. When they feel isolated completely, they also expect that the administration would respond properly and try to bring them to the right path. Therefore, it is not the task of the Prime Minister; it is the task of the grass-root officials in the administration, both in the Finance Ministry in Punjab and the Department of Home Affairs, Department of Education, to create that atmosphere, even talking to them inside jail, even communicating to them in the court. I feel that we should not from today take any approach by which they feel that they are our permanent enemies and permanent hostile forces; that will not help us to reveal Punjab.

Secondly, sports activities of Punjab during the last few years during violence have been completely stopped

In the Grants I have seen that possibly in Punjab they have no specific Ministry for sports. I do not know the reason, because the grant is mentioned only under the Education category. Nothing is mentioned for sports.

In Punjab the only training institute for sports is the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Institute for Sports financed by the Government of India located in Patiala. During the last few years all sports activity in Punjab is completely paralysed, whether it is hockey or foot ball or swimming. And the only championship which was allotted

to Punjab they could not host it because of the prevailing conditions there.

Sports goods which form one of the important items for the gear and equipment for sports are mostly manufactured in Punjab at places like Ludhiana, Patiala and Jullundhur. I request the Finance Minister who is now looking after the Budget of Punjab to kindly see that the small scale industry in Punjab is helped properly, whether a joint collaboration can be made so that we can get the latest technology for sports gears and equipment in the country. Otherwise, during the Asian Games we found that a large number of sports goods and equipment had to be imported from West Germany and England. To meet our national and international requirements of the sports goods it is imperative that Punjab gets the latest technology in sports gears and equipment. We should encourage the small scale industries there by having some foreign collaboration that is now available in the world. We should have a single point for the manufacture of sports goods and also create the basic infrastructure, so that whatever is already available in Punjab will be sufficiently explored. Otherwise we will only lose our money.

Secondly, I refer to two important matters. In Punjab, as you know a large number of Jawans are there, who after completing a term in the Army go back to their villages in Punjab. They have hardly anything to fall back on. Generally it is presumed that in Punjab everybody has agricultural land. But it is not the fact. These Jawans should be helped to start some smallscale industries in places like Ludhiana Jullundhur and Patiala for these sports goods and equipment. I know that the Finance Ministry have a task force in every State. They can take some steps to help those Jawans who do not have any land. They can perhaps be allotted some land and some positive programme coordinating the small scale industries or some self-employment programme can be started. I know that the specific proposals announced by the Prime Minister yesterday will give a boost to this. If we go round we will find that there is land available. But there is also some limit to the capacity of the people. Where will they go? If we do not do something now, again there will b

[ Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi ]

some disruptive forces and there will be trouble.

Thirdly, I will conclude by referring to only one aspect. This is about the Gurudwaras and other things. I am sorry to say — do not accuse me as parochial, I am for the country and all those things. But the fact remains that the greatest amount of sacrifice during the national struggle and after the struggle was done by every part of India; I do not question. But in terms of leaving the homeland and changing the course of events it was mostly done by Punjab and Bengal. In Pakistan it was done by others, but here in India it was done mostly by the Sikhs and Hindus — among them mostly Bengalis. Even after independence the same thing is happening. But now something has yet to be done for them. I feel in the Gurudwaras wherever they are social welfare activities and programmes are to be started. The Prime Minister announced yesterday to have an All India Gurudwara Act after consulting the Shiromani Akali Dal and other concerned. Within the ambit of the agreement that can be worked out. So also, people from the Scheduled Caste communities and other backward communities in Punjab can be urged to do something so that some social welfare programmes can be started in consultation with the concerned people in the Gurudwaras.

It will further create harmony and good relations between Hindus and Sikhs in Punjab. Though they do and I know it, unfortunately, for the last few years the picture of Gurudwaras has been painted in a different manner. I know in Calcutta Gurudwaras the kind of social work they do during floods and drought is unimaginable. They go to Muslim areas, Harijan areas and every other areas. There I feel that Guru Nanak is alive. Therefore, I feel that when the new Gurudwara Act is to come, it should include some of the social programmes that involve not only the Sikhs but also the non-Sikhs, which will create harmony not only in Punjab but in other parts of the country also.

In conclusion, once again, I request the Hon. Minister to inspire the Punjab youth. They may be having agricultural land. But

sports is one item in Punjab which is not being encouraged by the Government of India or the Government of Punjab to that extent which it should have been. I have compared the figures. Still now there is no stadium in Punjab though the best hockey players do come from there. There is no major track and field in Punjab excepting NIS Patiala. But the Punjab Government promised many a time to spend for that. Sports schools and sports nurseries under the initiative of Punjab Government should be there to groom the teenagers and school going boys at the national level by collecting boys from various parts of the country. Why I say this is that FIFA, the international body of football, has recommended visiting India. And only at three places in India the climate is suitable to play football for training purposes. One is Punjab, second is Kerala and third is Bengal. Punjab has the advantage of sports equipment. Therefore, I request once again to spend more for sports in Punjab to build up the infrastructure specially for the sports goods.

[ Translation ]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Punjab Budget which is before us. So far as Punjab is concerned, it is the best State in the country and it supplies foodgrains to the whole country. As far as Punjab problem was concerned that has been solved now. By signing an accord with the Akalis, our Hon Prime Minister has created an atmosphere of peace and amity not only in that State but also in the rest of the country.

But today, floods caused by heavy rains have damaged the crops in Punjab. There is soil-erosion in Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar districts. The major factor causing floods and soil-erosion in the plains, are the hilly rivers. They cause the maximum soil-erosion in Punjab. I have been always emphasising in the House that the main reason for this is lack of tree plantation in hilly areas. This is a national task and should be taken up on national scale. It should not happen that for want of afforestation the floods go on occurring every year and the soil-erosion goes on unabated. There is need for more plantation in the Kandhi area of Hoshiarpur

district in Punjab where small farmers own small holdings.

So far as terrorism is concerned I cannot say for sure about other places but now the people visit Gurudwaras in a relaxed way. Earlier when they used to visit Gurudwaras, there was always fear of being murdered. The Punjab police will have to pay attention to this. Besides, those who are running the Punjab administration should enquire into these incidents of violence in which innocent people continued to be brutally murdered and the administration was a silent spectator.

Our Hon. Prime Minister has tried to solve this issue with liberal approach but in a firm way which is a welcome step. Whether it is with regards to Railway Coach factory or setting up of any factory our Hon. Prime Minister pays special attention to Punjab. He has announced a time-bound programme for all the jobs to be executed. I feel that it is not only the good luck of the people of Punjab but all the countrymen that an accord like this has been reached. Funds from the national exchequer have been invested in Punjab. Himachal Pradesh co-operated a lot in the construction of Bhakra Dam. The people of Himachal parted with their lands for the country's prosperity but the extremists breached the canal near Ropar ruining the crops.

I would appeal to the Akalis and the opposition parties that though an accord has been signed yet I am afraid that terrorism may take root and, therefore, all of us will have to co-operate to crush it. The border of Himachal Pradesh is all along Punjab and industrial development is going on there. But at times, such people of Punjab, who are enemies of the society violate the law. Of course, the law-abiding people cooperate with us. The Akali Dal has been a nationalist party ever since the time of Master Tara Singh but I fail to understand what had gone wrong with them. All the same, it is never too late. So far as the students are concerned, as my friend also pointed out, they were incited and that is why every thing went wrong. Our Government wish to ensure peace in the State and maintain law and order. I would like to point out to the administration of Punjab that the Railway had made a provision in

the Budget for a train for the children of Abohar - our Hon. Speaker belongs to Abohar - and rupees three lakhs were sent on laying the track also. That train had to be launched but the Administration of Punjab did not spend that much amount even. I would, therefore, request the Punjab Administration and the Governor to get this task accomplished so that the children could benefit therefrom.

Besides, I would like to point out that there is Hindu-Sikh amity in Himachal Pradesh. The daily worship in temples and Gurudwaras has started since yesterday. Prayers for peace were offered throughout the country with this hope that we shall live together as brothers. I hope that we shall live in peace and make progress. The agricultural Production in Punjab would increase manifold. The industrialist had totally failed as no one in the country was ready to supply them goods on credit. The traders of Punjab were not able to get on credit even goods worth two rupees in Calcutta. But now we hope and wish that atmosphere will improve and Punjab would make fast progress.

I would like to point out one more thing. My constituency is adjacent to Anandpur Sahib. There is a long-standing demand for a bridge in 'Dabota' village which falls in Ropar district. There is a deep gorge there. I hope the district authorities and administration will pay attention to this demand.

I conclude and support this Budget.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : I am sorry that I happened to be absent from the House yesterday at the time when the very important and indeed historic announcement was made by the Prime Minister here. On behalf of my party I wish to express our deep sense of relief. We welcome very much this agreement which came as a very happy surprise. It was a happy surprise more so because the actual terms on which we find the Agreement has been reached are not very new. These were the things which were being suggested even one year ago, but sometime or other either the Government was not willing to consider

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those suggestions or at other times the Akali leadership was not going to consider those suggestions. But ultimately it is a very good sign that an agreement has been reached.

Of course, the Prime Minister has played a very statesmanlike part in this whole affair but we should also not forget the role which must have been played, though quietly and behind the scene, by the Governor, Shri Arjun Singh, who obviously has been doing a lot of spade work. Otherwise such an agreement would not have come about within 24 hours. I must also say that Sant Longowal has taken courage in both hands. It is a sign perhaps that the balance of force inside the Akali camp has shifted decisively in favour of that section of opinion, which is led by Sant Longowal. That is a very important thing for the future, because what we feel is that this agreement should receive general acceptance by all sections in the Punjab.

But, Sir, it is too early just now to say any thing on it, because by this evening or tomorrow morning I hope. We will not be reading some discordant voices against it. There are extremists on both sides and I cannot bring myself to believe that all those extremist sections will so easily reconcile themselves to this Agreement. Such elements are not only here in India, but apparently they are abroad also. Are we to believe that those who have been so active for the last three or four years, spending so much money from abroad and using foreign resources and other resources in order to instigate terrorism and disaffection among our Sikh brothers, will just sit down quietly and accept everything? It would be very naive on our part not to be vigilant and not to be prepared with all the measures that are at our disposal to counter any efforts which may still be made either by those who were supporting the terrorists or by the people like the Hindu Suraksha Samiti and also such type of people who have been from the other side trying to keep up tension and to spread some kind of communal feelings.

I was very much gratified to find that Shri Bhajan Lal also has apparently agreed to these terms quite easily even to the extent

of sharing the Resogullas which were consumed yesterday. Therefore, I am sure Shri Bhajan Lal will exert himself to see that the public opinion in Haryana is reconciled properly to the acceptance of this Agreement.

Of course, there are some loose ends that have been left. I am sure that will be taken up by the parties concerned and they will see that those are not left hanging in the air. For example, there is no mention here at all of Fazilka and Abohar. That was rather a thorny question in the past as far as the Haryana people were concerned and they had always been saying that any political award of Chandigarh to Punjab must be accompanied by simultaneous cession of Fazilka and Abohar to Haryana. Apparently, for the time being, they have compromised on that issue. I hope it does not become now a matter for agitation by some sections of people in Haryana but some solution has to be found as quickly as possible to these other areas which were under dispute. It is after all a package deal. This is a point of view - certainly my party and some others on this side have always been pressing for more than a year now—That concessions however welcome should not be given out in doses and dribbles. The whole attempt was that the solution should be made on the basis of an overall package deal without which it is not possible to get this situation normalised.

I am very glad now that a package deal has come about; and the components of that package deal are to be found only - you will excuse my saying so - in the proposals which most of the opposition parties made last year to the Government. Perhaps Government will say now that the other side was not willing to accept. But, at that time, I remember, the Government itself was not prepared to accept those proposals; but all those proposals are here in the package deal. And the broadcast which was made by the last Prime Minister by and large did concede all these points. But of course it was too late at that time to avoid the military action which was already decided on.

So, I think, we should allow things to settle down a bit; the situation should be allowed to get stabilised. After this, many

other things are required to be done. It is not necessary for me now to elaborate on them but many things will have to be done. Because, what has taken place during the last 3 years or 4 years, I am sure, has left very, very deep scars and wounds on the communities in the Punjab. It will take time to heal those things. It cannot be healed so easily. And for that everybody concerned - particularly everybody who is here in this House - will have to exert all their efforts together and cooperate in seeing that those scars and wounds are healed as soon as possible.

Especially I agree with Mr. Das Muni that a special effort must be made to see that the younger section and younger generation is brought back to the correct path and that their sentiments which had been hurt very much or which had been aroused on the religious issues, are assuaged. Those feelings must be assuaged as soon as possible. It will require a lot of hard work, a lot of patience, a lot of persuasion and a lot of tact in the handling by the Government mainly and by all other parties concerned who also work in the Punjab.

The biggest achievement has been that this agreement has come in time to prevent any further deterioration of the situation which was leading ultimately towards what we were most afraid of, and that was, a communal clash between the Sikhs and the Hindus. If that had taken place, that would have been the end of the Punjab for a long time to come. Some people were very actively trying to bring about such communal riot and clash between Sikhs and Hindus in the Punjab. That was avoided, thanks to the good commonsense and the common Punjabi brotherhood feelings among Sikhs and Hindus, which has got a long tradition, a long history, and has got deep social roots. And all efforts failed; all their efforts failed to bring about any clash between these communities in the Punjab. And now that this agreement has come, I am sure that it will further help to consolidate the position.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, do you want now to ring the bell? I am ready to sit down.

13 00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please finish it because four minutes are allotted to you, but I have given 10 minutes. Therefore, with whatever you want to say you try to conclude.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Broadly speaking, I think the terms of this Agreement are very just in so far as they go. What is being decided ultimately about the Anandpur Sahib Resolution is also very gratifying. If this position had been accepted much earlier, which we had also been suggesting that that part of the Resolution which refers to Centre-State relations should be referred to the Sarkaria Commission—now, at least, you see, the position has been made clear by the Akali Party leadership that this Resolution does not, in any sense, countenance any kind of idea of secession or separatism or separate State or anything and that within the four corners of the Indian Constitution this Resolution should be implemented, because even a week or 10 days ago there was an unfortunate press Statement whether it is correct or not I do not know--by Mr. Thora in which he said that no solution can be found within the Constitution. It will have to be outside the Constitution. I do not know what he meant, but anyway the leadership which has negotiated and signed this agreement has taken this forth-right step that it has nothing to do with secessionism or a separate State or anything of that kind and that they are all pledged to stand by the Constitution. Then, of course, this question of Centre-State relations which is implicit in the Anandpur Sahib Resolution is not something which we need to be afraid of, is not something which concerns Punjab alone. The question of inter-State relations is something which is being agitated by many State Governments and many State forces in the country including the States which are ruled by the Congress (I) Party. That is a different question that the Sarkaria Commission is already appointed to go into it. Anyway, let the position stabilise, we are very glad that some relief has come and we should be vigilant to see that nobody tries to throw a spanner in the wheel.

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One final thing is, I must strike a little bit of a discordant note because something is happening at this moment in Punjab which we are losing sight of because our press also, I am afraid, has blacked it out completely, whether on some orders or not I do not know. Just at this moment when we have decided in the agreement that Army deserters, for example, should be given all possible help to be rehabilitated, those who are not convicted should be rehabilitated—I fully agree with that, but workers in the Punjab who are building the construction projects in the Punjab instead of being rehabilitated are being retrenched. 6000 workers have been retrenched in the last one month after completing the work on the Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project at Nangal, one of the biggest hydel projects in Punjab, and this was happening for some time. We referred to it, we represented, I personally went to the Prime Minister just after he had announced at Hussainiwalla that the work on the Thien Dam would be speeded up, I had personally represented to him that in the present situation in the Punjab, these thousands of workmen, who are skilled workmen, semi-skilled workmen, mechanics, artisans, crane drivers, all sorts of pump drivers and people like that should not be retrenched and rendered unemployed, they can be re-employed, absorbed in so many other projects which are there in the Punjab. The Thien Dam is there, the Sutlej-Jamuna link canal work is there, the Rupar thermal power project is there and the Mukerian Hydel Project is there — all these are under construction and these workers who are experienced people, who have worked for so long on the Nangal project—now 6000 of them -- are being retrenched. They have been retrenched, they have been given retrenchment orders, because they took out a silent procession on the 3rd of this month at Nangal and again they held a meeting at Ganguwal asking only for absorption in other projects, they have been lathi charged by the police and many of their people have been arrested. I just got this letter from Patiala Central Jail yesterday from one of the leaders of these workmen's unions who was sitting in Patiala Central Jail describing how they have been lathi charged and here unfortunately I have got with me copies of letters given by the Punjab Government, Mr.

Tajendra Khanna, Secretary to the Government of the Punjab writing a letter in which he says...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can refer it to the Minister. You can send a copy to the Minister.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Is anything going to happen ? You cannot go on rehabilitating people who have deserted from the Army while you retrench people who have been building projects in the Punjab. What kind of double standards are these ? These people should also be rehabilitated. They are not people who are just idle people. They are people who have worked with their skill and hands. The Prime Minister assured me that this matter would be given consideration and there are many projects in the Punjab where they could be absorbed. But suddenly, at one go, 6,000 people have been chucked out their families are going to starve. What kind of atmosphere will it create ? Is it helpful to create a new atmosphere that would follow after the agreement. It will create a discordant note that so many people have been chucked out from their jobs and things like that.

So, I am appealing that in this hour when the whole country is expressing its happiness and relief at this agreement, they should see to it that workmen who have been working on these projects and have completed such projects are not chucked out in the summary fashion but absorbed in the other pending projects like Thien Dam, Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal and projects like that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please wind up.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Please consider this matter and don't leave it hanging in the air. The news is blacked out completely from the media also. I do not know why. People are being lathi charged, jailed and all these things. Even the Correspondent of the TRIBUNE on that day was lathi charged and beaten by the police when he was covering the silent march at Nangal. These matters are not made known to the country at all. I have to speak on these matters here.

I have to request the Government through the Minister to see that some early steps are taken for the rehabilitation of these workers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we adjourn for Lunch and re-assemble at 2.00 p. m.

13.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock*

[English]

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (PUNJAB),  
1985-86—contd.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH (Sarguja) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I Support the Punjab Budget Presented here though this Budget is a State Assembly subject, it has been presented here under special circumstances arising due to President's Rule in the State. It is a good thing that every aspect of this Budget has been discussed in detail and it has been prepared with practical approach. So far as this Budget is concerned, as it has been presented in the premier institution of the country, it should be carefully gone through to see whether sufficient provision has been made and there are no shortcomings. The way the formalities were completed was highly satisfactory and so far as the people of Punjab are concerned you know they are hardworking and enterprising. Government always had special interest in the future of Punjab. The State has always been far ahead of other States in matters of irrigation, agriculture, construction of dams, small scale industries and recruitment in army etc. There are many things which are available in abundance in

Punjab while in other States they are not available, when Punjab was at the pinnacle of progress and development, a handful of vested interests, which are today called extremists, vitiated the atmosphere. You must have observed that they tried to disintegrate the country for their selfish ends.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government have taken many effective steps to solve this problem. The President's Rule was imposed and even our popular leader Shri-mati Indira Gandhi had to sacrifice her life Shri Rajiv Gandhi took over the reins after her martyrdom and tried to bring about a solution with team work. As you are aware an able and dynamic leader like Shri Arjun Singh was appointed as Governor and he tried with all his might to bring the situation under control. It was the result of his efforts that an agreement was signed yesterday and the whole of country is Overwhelmed with joy. The unique agreement between Sant Longowal and Shri Rajiv Gandhi will bring peace and tranquility in the country and Punjab would make progress as before.

As is known to all Punjab is in the grip of floods at present as a result of which about 3 lakh hectares of land have been inundated and 10 lakh persons have been affected in one way or the other.

It is a matter of concern for all of us. I want to bring to your notice that there is need to put in more serious efforts to tackle this situation and it would be proper to make necessary provision in the Budget. You are also well aware that during the last couple of years the climate of terrorism has gripped the whole country in general and Punjab in particular and many innocent people have been killed and their property looted. This House expects from Government to give adequate compensation to all those who are affected and dislocated and give them an opportunity to be rehabilitated. It is, therefore, necessary to make adequate provision in Punjab Budget for these things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we look at the glorious part of Punjab we know it has been a progressive State all along.