

[Shri Rajiv Gandhi]

If they are really interested, instead of just talking in the House, I would request them to come and talk. Because, I have seen on past occasions that they make a statement in the House, but when it comes to actually going and talking about it and getting into depth, then suddenly everybody disappears. Nobody is willing to take a positive stand on the issues. I would welcome it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Mr. Prime Minister, do you consider this investing the Governor with special powers over the State Assembly to be a technicality ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sorry. I did not talk about the special powers. I talked about the customary laws. The Governor has the same special powers as are available in Nagaland. If you listened to what I have said, this is what I have said very specifically about cultural identity and customary laws: The Governor in Nagaland has similar powers. They have not been used. I have no doubt that the Governor in Arunachal will not use these powers.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Then, why should there be this clause about special powers ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We have kept the powers because this is a very sensitive area. We have a major border question in that area, unlike any other part of the country, where we do not have a border question of that magnitude. We have felt that it is necessary in this transition phase for the Governor to have certain powers. Like I have said, we have not used these powers in Nagaland and I do not envisage the Governor using these powers at all. But if the Hon. Members have a true feeling for national integrity and unity of this nation, they would not request us to weaken the provision in a very sensitive border area at this critical stage in the border areas.

13.15 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE : INCIDENTS THAT
TOOK PLACE IN DELHI ON 5TH
DECEMBER, 1986**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Guru Teg Bahadur martyrdom day is traditionally observed by taking out a procession from Gurdwara Sis Ganj to Gurdwara Rakabganj. Since tension prevailed in the Chandni Chowk after the incidents of 2nd December, 1986, the organisers of the procession in their discussions with the Delhi Administration on the night of 4th December, 1986 agreed not to take out any procession from Gurdwara Sisganj. Consequently curfew was also imposed in the Chandni Chowk area from 7.00 A.M. on 5th December, 1986. However, later in the morning of 5th December the organisers insisted on taking out the procession and the Delhi Administration keeping in view the religious sentiments agreed to allow a symbolic procession for which an alternate route was worked out by the Delhi Police in consultation with the organisers.

2. When the procession started forming at about noon, a large number of people started collecting from all sides of Chandni Chowk and indulged in heavy brickbatting and stone throwing. The Police, however, managed to disperse the violent mob. In the process of dispersing the crowd and providing clear passage to the processionist, Police had to first resort to lathi charge at 3 places and later 13 rounds were fired as warning shots.

3. At about 2.25 P.M. when the procession was fully formed and was about to move towards Red Fort, a crowd again started forming. The Police arrangements enabled the procession to move without hindrance.

4. Meanwhile, a few hundred persons collected inside the Gurdwara Bangla Sahib for taking out the martyrdom procession. The Police persuaded them to take out the procession from Bangla Sahib to Gurdwara Rakab Ganj which is a short distance, without waiting for the main procession from

Gurdwara Sis Ganj as the progress of the main procession was very slow. When the procession reached near Goldakhana at about 3.00 P.M., two persons on a motorcycle are reported to have told the processionists that two Sikhs had been killed in Police firing near the Red Fort. This inflamed the processionists and they ran back to the Gurdwara Bangla Sahib and started pelting stones on the vehicles passing by. The Police used tear gas and the situation was brought under control.

5. At about 3.15 P.M., a truck driven by a young man came out of the Gurdwara and ploughed into a CRPF picket, which was stationed on the outer ring of the roundabout. Three CRPF personnel and one occupant of the vehicle were killed in this incident. The situation again took an ugly turn and the Police had to use tear-gas and resort to firing. Two more persons were killed bringing the total number to six. Twentyeight persons, including 18 police officials, were injured. One Sub-Inspector received gun shot injuries.

6. The procession from Bangla Sahib Gurdwara was safely escorted to the Gurdwara Rakabganj where it terminated at about 6.00 P.M.

7. A Magisterial inquiry into the incidents of violence around Gurdwara Bangla Sahib has been ordered by the Lt. Governor, Delhi. The inquiry will determine the facts including the sequence of events leading to the incidents of violence resulting in the death and injuries to police personnel and others and will also fix responsibility for the incidents. Three cases of rioting and one case of murder have already been registered in connection with the above incidents. 61 persons were arrested in these 4 cases on the same day.

8. Curfew which was imposed in the Chandni Chowk area on the morning of 5th December, 1986 was relaxed for two hours on 6th and five hours on 7th December, 1986. Curfew was also clamped around Gurdwara Bangla Sahib on the evening of 5th and around Gurdwara Rakab Ganj on the night of 5/6th December, 1986. Curfew has now been withdrawn from all the areas.

9. The situation is still tense but is fully under control. The Police is intensively patrolling the city and maintaining very strict vigil. The Army was positioned in sensitive areas of West and East Delhi as a stand-by measures on 6th and 7th, but it has since been withdrawn.

10. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation for the co-operation and restraint shown by all sections of the society. Because of this, the Delhi Administration was able to contain the situation and to bring it quickly under control. I am confident that this active support will always be forthcoming in order to maintain peace and tranquility in the capital and I would also appeal to the Hon'ble Members of this august House for their continued support in this direction.

11. It is a matter of deep regret that three brave men of CRPF were killed while performing their duties. It is also regretted that three more lives were lost in the incidents of 5th December, 1986. The House would, I am sure, like to join me in extending our deepest sympathies to the families of those who died in the unfortunate incidents.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now we will adjourn for lunch and will reassemble at 14.20 hrs.

13 19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till twenty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled, after lunch, at Twenty Four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : *in the Chair*]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : Sir, there was a statement made by the Home Minister, and we would like to have some clarifications, and also a discussion on these points,