

Lithuania parts from USSR

MOSCOW, March 12 (PTI) — Lithuania has proclaimed itself independent, dropping the words "Soviet Socialist" from its name and boycotted the National Parliament raising the spectre of breakup of the Soviet Union.

The decisions, taken yesterday by the republic's new non-Communist-dominated Parliament, "was described as alarming by the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in his opening remarks to the Congress of People's Deputies which began an extraordinary session in the Kremlin this morning.

The Deputies belonging to the pro-independence "Sąjūdis" movement stayed away from the session and Mr Gorbachev noted that republic had failed to send a representative to the

Presidium of the Congress.

The Lithuanian Parliament elected a non-Communist Vytautas Landsbergis as the Republic's new President and ruled that the Soviet Constitution and laws would not be applicable on the Lithuanian territory. It did away with the "hammer and sickle" emblem and adopted "white knight on a horse against red backdrop" as the new emblem. A pre-merger anthem was restored as the national anthem.

The Lithuanian move, the immediate biggest challenge to Mr Gorbachev whose Soviet leadership entered the sixth year today, may prompt other Republics, particularly the neighbouring Estonia and Latvia, to follow suit though the demographic situation in them is entirely different.



Relatives of those killed in the Meham by-election violence perform "havan" on the "tehrvin" of the deaths at Kharak Jattan village of Rohtak on Monday.

- Tribune photo by Karam Singh

Meeting calls for boycott of Devi Lal

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audience unanimously.

It held Mr Chautala, his family members, the Janata Dal green brigade and certain police and administrative officers guilty of the Meham violence and the poll irregularities.

Naming DIG Shamsher Singh, SP Kirtar Singh Tomar, Additional S.P. Suresh Chand Sharma, and S.Ps Bir Singh, Manjit Singh Ahlawat and Mr Sukhdev Singh Rana and the then DC of Rohtak, Mr Balbir Singh Malik, as persons responsible of the Meham incidents, the meeting demanded strict action against them.

Through another resolution moved by Mrs Krishna Gehlawat who resigned from the chairmanship of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board in protest against the Meham incidents, the meeting urged the Central Government and the Janata Dal high command to dismiss Mr Chautala from the Chief Ministership and to expel him from the Janata Dal.

By another resolution, Mr Samson Singh, President of the Haryana Yuva Shanti Sena, called upon MPs and MLAs of the State to express their lack of confidence in

the Chautala Government within 10 days failing which the Sarvghap Panchayat activists would gherao them.

The meeting adopted a resolution moved by the General Secretary of the All-India Yuva Janata Dal, Mr Raj Singh Hooda, urging the Election Commission and the Central Government not to depend upon the report of the Haryana Government to decide the date of the Meham by-election.

Demanding the holding of the by-election immediately, the resolution said the people had lost confidence in the State Administration which for certain reasons wanted to save Mr Chautala and was considering to delay the by-election on any pretext.

Mr Anand Singh Dangri, main rival of Mr Chautala from Meham, announced a five-point action programme to be undertaken by the Haryana Panchayat from tomorrow to press for the dismissal of the Chautala Government. The ashes of the dead in the Meham violence would be taken in the palyatra.

Those newsmen who suffered injuries at the hands of the police and hooligans of the green brigade would be honoured by the samiti at the

Meham Chaubisi Panchayat Chabutra after the Meham election.

Mr Dangri came down heavily on Mr Devi Lal and his family.

Mr Dangri alleged the Janata Dal workers misused the poll symbol of their alliance partner, BJP as identification mark to capture booths. He congratulated the constabulary for raising its voice against corrupt officers. He demanded that Mr Chautala should be disqualified from contesting any election for six years.

The star attraction at the meeting was Mrs Gayatri Devi, wife of the late Charan Singh, former Prime Minister. Paying tributes to the Meham victims Mrs Gayatri Devi said those who commit crimes against society must be punished, even if they happened to be sons of the rulers. Several leaders of various parties paid tributes to the dead. These included former Ministers K.R. Punia, Parmanand, Amar Singh Dhanak, Jool Chand Jain, Hari Singh Saun, Kartar Devi, and Parsani Devi.

The President of The Haryana Congress, Mr Shamsher Singh Surjewala demanded among other things that Mr Chautala should be disqualified for six years from contesting any election. He announced that his party would give Rs 10,000 to each family of the dead. However Mr Satbir Singh Kundu, chief election agent of Mr Dangri, clarified that the samiti would not accept any donation from any political party.

The tradition prohibits raising of slogans and clapping at a condolence meeting. Hence the people silently approved various resolutions moved by the organisers by raising their hands.

Meham town observed complete bandh today. No Haryana Roadways bus plied on the Lakhanmaja-Meham route, on which this village is located.

16 die in Pak ethnic violence

ISLAMABAD, March 12 (PTI) — At least 10 persons were killed and several injured in a fresh outbreak of ethnic violence in Hyderabad and some other parts of Sindh province in Pakistan in the past 24 hours.

Reports received here said six persons were killed and 13 others wounded in Hyderabad city following ethnic clashes between two rival groups following the death of a Sindh youth by some unidentified persons at the main gate of the Government City Arts College.

In Toba Tek Singh area, one passenger was killed and five others injured when a bomb exploded inside a private bus on its way to Sadiqabad. The explosive was hidden in a suitcase.

Elsewhere in the province, unidentified gunmen shot dead two persons at Dudu town in Sindh. The assailants managed to escape. According to another report, a station house officer (SHO) was killed in Merdan near Garhi Canal.

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Plug outflow of funds: Ajit

From The Tribune Bureau CHANDIGARH, March 12 — There was an urgent need to prevent outflow of funds to Swiss banks.

The funds, instead, should be channelled back to the rural sector for development projects, the Union Industries Minister, Mr Ajit Singh, said here today.

Addressing the opening session of the three-day convention of the B.K.U. at the Sector 35 Kisan Bhavan here, Mr Ajit Singh said the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Indira Vikas Yojana schemes of the Government were schemes to befool rural masses.

Such schemes could not solve the problem of growing unemployment in the rural sector. Accusing Congress (I) of being anti-farmer, he said there was continuous slashing of budget of the rural sector. In the first Five Year Plan, the outlay for the rural sector was 36 per cent which was reduced to 19 per cent in the last Plan.

Talking about the Bofors gun deal, he said the Government diverted finances generated by the rural sector for the growth of cities and industrial units.

"The wrong policies of the previous Government were responsible for the imbalance between exports and imports.

Had the Congress chosen development of rural sector and export of agro-based products, the position about the balance of trade (import-export) would have been different.

During the Congri rule, commissions became such an attraction that it was ordered to import of sugar and wheat from Australia.

"It was shameful for an agriculture-dominant country to import foodgrains," he added.

Mr Ajit Singh said the Janata Dal was committed to work to uplift standards of living in the rural areas. The agricultural pricing, he said, should not only be linked to the cost of inputs but also to the amount of labour put in by the farmer.

He maintained that there could be no development in the country unless rural sector was given priority. The Janata Dal Government would make an endeavour to make budgetary provisions to spend 50 per cent of its Plan outlay on the development of the rural sector to restore the balance.

He stressed the need for taking the industry to the rural areas so that its profits could reach rural masses and suggested more food processing units in the rural sector.

Earlier, Mr Bhupinder Singh Mann, President, B.K.U., in his address of welcome talked about problems of farming community of the country in general and Punjab in particular.

Mr Vijay Janwadia, Convener of the All-India B.K.U., said that the pricing of agriculture produce was faulty and the transfer of resources from farm sector to industrial sector was depriving the rural sector the benefit of development. He said that the Union Government in its attempt to keep the prices of foodgrains down was trying to suppress the farming community.

Mr Balbir Singh Rajwala, Secretary of the Punjab unit of the B.K.U., in a memorandum to the Industries Minister, said the farmers were keenly awaiting the support price of wheat. The support price would reveal the policy of the Government towards farmers. He also demanded "market" from loans as the farmers were indebted because of wrong pol-

cies of the Government and no fault of theirs. The cooperative movement in the north had collapsed he said. The concept of cooperatives was finished in Punjab because of dominance of bureaucracy. He said that the B.K.U. was prepared to cooperate with the Government in any anti-corruption drive.

Mr Prem Singh Dahiya of the Haryana unit of the B.K.U. while proposing a vote of thanks expressed the hope that Mr Ajit Singh would take up cudgels on behalf of farmers at the highest level.

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Able legislator, says RV

Continued from page 1 col 1

Assembly election on the Congress ticket.

Since then for nearly 25 years he had been in the forefront of Punjab's political scene.

The President and the Prime Minister expressed grief at the death of Mr Darbara Singh here today.

President R. Venkataraman said Mr Darbara Singh was a skilled administrator and an able legislator.

"He was cast in Gandhian and Nehruvian mould," the President said in a condolence message.

Prime Minister V.P. Singh said his death "at this crucial juncture is a tragedy not just for Punjab but for the whole country".

"His political acumen and administrative abilities and his abiding commitment to the welfare of all communities will be long remembered".

Mr V.P. Singh said the late leader "worked seriously for the progress of Punjab and the unity and the integrity of the country".

"I offer my heartfelt condolences to his family and the people of Punjab."

Others who paid tributes to the departed leader included Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Information and Parliamentary Affairs Minister P. Upendra and Lok Sabha Speaker Rabi Ray.

Besides, several members of Parliament and hundreds of leaders and well-wishers from Punjab thronged the Sunehri Bagh Road residence of Mr Darbara Singh.

Congress (I) President and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited the residence yesterday.

Former President Zail Singh expressed deep shock at the sudden death of Mr Darbara Singh.

In a statement released to the Press the former President said Mr Darbara Singh was a known public figure of long standing.

"He will be remembered as a tireless worker in the political arena", the statement added.

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