

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Under clause (4) of article 356 of the Constitution, no Proclamation issued under that article and approved by both the Houses of Parliament shall remain in force for more than three years. However, under clause (5) of the said article a resolution approving the continuance in force of a Proclamation issued under clause (1) of that article beyond a period of one year cannot be passed by either House of Parliament unless the two conditions relating to a Proclamation of Emergency being in operation in the whole or any part of the State and the certificate by the Election Commission that the continuation of the Proclamation issued under clause (1) is necessary on account of difficulties in holding general elections to the Legislative Assembly of the State as specified in that clause are met. The three year period in the case of Proclamation issued on 11th May, 1987 with respect to the State of Punjab would be over on 10th May, 1990 and the said two conditions are also not fulfilled. The prevailing circumstances in the State do not hold out good prospects for free and peaceful elections to the State Legislative Assembly. The representatives of various political parties who attended the All-Party Meeting convened by the Governor of Punjab at Chandigarh recently were also of the view that congenial conditions should be created first before holding the elections to the State Legislative Assembly. Clauses (4) and (5) of article 356 of the Constitution are, therefore, proposed to be amended so as to facilitate the extension of the said Proclamation up to a total period of three years and six months in relation to the State of Punjab.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

NEW DELHI;
The 2nd April, 1990.

MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED.

SUBHASH C. KASHYAP,
Secretary-General.