

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 28, 1998/Shravana 6,
1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Law and Order situation in Delhi

*582. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether law and order situation has deteriorated in Delhi during the last four months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of kidnappings, rapes, killings/ murders in Delhi during the said period;

(d) whether the number of car thefts have doubled during the said period;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the comparative figures of heinous crimes and car thefts during April to June, 1996, 1997 and 1998; and

(g) the steps being taken to improve the situation?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The number of cases of heinous crimes reported during the last 4 months of 1998 compared with those reported during the corresponding period last year is as follows :

| | 1997 | 1998 |
|-------|------|------|
| March | 258 | 200 |
| April | 226 | 214 |
| May | 201 | 237 |
| June | 218 | 276 |

(c) During the period March-June, 1998, 447 kidnappings (including 7 cases of kidnapping for ransom); 148 cases of rape; and 244 cases of murder were reported.

(d) and (e) 1519 cars were stolen during the period March-June, 1998. The number of cars stolen during the corresponding period last year was 1346.

(f) The comparative figures of heinous crimes and car thefts during the period from April to June 1996, 1997 and 1998 is tabulated below :

| | April to June | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|------|------|
| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
| Dacoity | 8 | 7 | 12 |
| Murder | 140 | 154 | 178 |
| Attempt to murder | 164 | 122 | 153 |
| Robbery | 139 | 155 | 221 |
| Riot | 59 | 61 | 45 |
| Rape | 148 | 148 | 119 |
| Kidnapping for ransom | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| Cars stolen | 601 | 1033 | 1153 |

(g) The steps taken to improve the situation include intensification of beat patrolling especially from 6 P.M. to 10 P.M.; surveillance over the activities of known criminals; improved intelligence gathering; raids over the places of ill repute and suspected hideouts of criminals; high visibility of police in the vulnerable areas; and constitution of a regional coordination group comprising police officers of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan to exchange information about the criminals.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Members from Delhi only will get chance to put supplementaries.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since this is the Capital of the country, all the Members are interested to ask supplementaries.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister has been honest enough to admit the fact that the law and order situation in Delhi is unsatisfactory. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this admission means, the admission of the failure of the Delhi Administration, Delhi Police and the Ministry of Home Affairs which is responsible for the law and order situation in Delhi. If so, what action is proposed to be taken by the hon. Minister against those who are responsible? In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards part (g) of the statement

which he has laid on the Table of the House. He has stated :

"The steps taken to improve the situation include intensification of beat patrolling especially from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m."

Sir, I have today's copy of *The Statesman* which says that 'night patrol keep a safe distance from robbers'. I feel that the orders issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs are not properly implemented. May, I know from the hon. Minister what action will he take to improve the situation, to discipline the Delhi Police, and to make them accountable?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, I have been a Member of Parliament for many years. I know that on earlier occasions when — from the Opposition — I had an opportunity to speak on this subject, I have always maintained that because of various innate problems — innate in the Capital like Delhi — the Police is not able to measure up to the growing population and the nature of the problems in Delhi. Therefore, law and order situation has been generally unsatisfactory.

I have with me the statistics which also substantiate this. I will not bore the House with all these statistics. I would only point out that in these four months that this Government has been there, the comparable ratio in the preceding year of heinous crime has been approximately the same. I have never said that the situation has worsened. But I have said that the situation is unsatisfactory.

What gives me some satisfaction is that in pursuing the criminals, the Delhi Police has been able to achieve some success. In fact, it is surprising. It is only when I dealt with these statistics that I found that during 1998, 67 per cent cases of heinous crimes have been worked out. Head-wise, the Delhi Police have managed to work out 59 per cent cases of dacoity; 54 per cent cases of murder; 80 per cent cases of attempt to murder; 59 per cent cases of robbery; 76 per cent cases of riot; 63 per cent cases of kidnapping for ransom; and 82 per cent cases of rape.

These are statistics which show that even though the law and order situation is unsatisfactory, the approach of the Delhi Police to these problems is something that is commendable. It is not fully satisfactory. I would like to see a situation develop in the city which makes the average citizen feel secure. Today a major crime takes place in a corner of the city where two old women are killed; they have been brutally murdered in the house, and that certainly causes concern. So, I share the concern of the House.

So far as the steps that I have indicated are concerned, I have been personally seeing that these

things are not only followed up, but I keen to ensure that if in any area, things are not followed up, the Police official in charge is held accountable and salutary action is taken.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : There are quite a number of contradictory reports. The hon. Minister admits that the situation has deteriorated. The Police Chief makes a statement that the law and order situation is under control. Moreover, through my supplementary I wanted to know what action is being taken against those responsible and instead of giving a reply to that question, the hon. Home Minister is trying to defend the situation by giving a comparative analysis of the previous years. But while making a comparative analysis, I find that today in Delhi, the people are so insecure that this type of insecurity did not prevail in the preceding years. Everyday there are incidents of rape, robbery, dacoity and other heinous crimes, murders and several other things. This is happening in places which are very crowded. In crowded places, these things are taking place and I am happy that the hon. Minister had admitted this fact. But now the hon. Minister is trying to defend the Delhi Police instead of taking some action to ensure that they are made accountable. The wireless equipment which the Delhi Police has today is so outdated that the highly sensitive messages passed on the wireless equipment can be caught by TV sets. The movement of terrorists and of VIPs is caught by wireless sets. This is happening in the Capital city of India. We do not have upto date, sophisticated equipment, whether it is wireless or any other equipment. The vehicles are not up to the mark and the weapons which Delhi Police have, are not sophisticated enough.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Delhi Police will be provided with the most sophisticated equipment, vehicles and weaponry available in the market.

Secondly, I would like to know what exact steps are likely to be taken to ensure discipline in the Delhi Police.

The hon. Minister has tried to evade answering these questions.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The hon. Member has emphasised the need of equipping the Delhi Police with modern sophisticated weapons. I entirely agree with him. Only recently we had a discussion and debate on the availability of such devices with the Delhi Police and it has been decided to purchase ultra high frequency digital trunk radio system with modular design capable of future expansion and with facilities for computer linkage between the Police Control Room and the PCR vans. This particular device would enable us to have automatic channel allocation, flexible talk groups, privacy, access to

P&T network and such other facilities which would make Delhi Police equipped with the most modern sophisticated devices so far as this is concerned.

A long time back, a survey was conducted as to how much Police Delhi needs and everyone said that per lakh population we are very much short of Police Stations and many more Police Stations are needed. It has been decided that we have 17 more Police *thanas* opened shortly.

These are specific steps we have taken. The continuous monitoring of the efficacy of the Police is part of our approach to this problem.

I have not said that the situation has deteriorated. It has slightly improved. But the improvement is not as much as to create security...*(Interruptions)* I said that it is unsatisfactory...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : In Delhi, everyday there is an incident of rape. Everyday, more than one person is killed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the basis of statistics, I am not going to make any claim. In fact, the other day when the Commissioner of Police presented to the Members of Parliament from Delhi, to the Chief Minister and to the Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, the statistics of how the crime has come down in the city, I had myself said that it is not the statistics which impress the people. It is the perception of the people which is more important. Unless the perception changes, insecurity will continue. Our purpose should be to create a sense of security in the common citizen of Delhi which is our commitment. We are striving in that direction. When I said that the situation is not good, the situation is unsatisfactory, many of my colleagues said: "Why are you saying it? It becomes the headlines." I said that I am not worried about the headlines. I am not going to say anything merely on the basis of statistics. I would like to create a sense of security in the Delhi citizen. For that, if I concede something, it is not something wrong.

The hon. Member himself has said that the Minister has made a statement which is honest, that the situation is not satisfactory. I have not said that the situation is worsening or that the situation is deteriorating. This has never been the word that I have used.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are the representatives of Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

I want to ask from the Minister through you that here in Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : What are the steps that you are taking to make the Delhi Police accountable? You made a statement that night patrolling will be improved. But that has not happened. Something else is coming in the newspapers. Something else is happening on the ground...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Only recently, 300 motor cycles were provided to the Delhi Police for mobile patrolling. I have also said that on the basis of the monitoring that will go on in the next few months, we will see to it that the DCP and the important officials responsible for each region, would be taken to task if there is any failure...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him. This is not good. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : The Congress is breaking the law today. They are holding a rally today...*(Interruptions)* You need not tell me about law. I know the law.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say to the Minister that the elements responsible for deterioration of law and order in Delhi, like the recent RDX Bomb blast at the bus terminal, belong to I.S.I. The people associated with terrorism in Delhi belong to Punjab, Kashmir and even Bangladesh.

The third element in Delhi is anti-social elements...*(Interruptions)* There are some anti-social elements in Delhi, to my calculations, they are getting political patronage...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not like that.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. I have allowed him.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : You will understand it after my question. The incidents taking place in Delhi and the worst type of heinous crime which took place in 1984...*(Interruptions)* due to not taking action on that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishan Lal Sharma, please put up your supplementary. What is your supplementary?

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : My question is whether there is any nexus among these three elements and whether these three elements are operating in collusion. Whether this problem is due to nexus among the I.S.I., extremists elements and anti-social elements? It is the second part of my question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary?

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : A murder took place recently in my constituency and in this incident two children of 15 years and 19 years were stabbed to death.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is putting his supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : I want to know from the Minister whether any monitoring is done for the murder cases or not and whether there is any programme to bring out time bound solution.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, what is the time-bound programme? How are you monitoring it?

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the House that these two things should be differentiated—one is the incidents of Bomb blasts in which there is no ordinary criminals involved. There are such elements involved in these incidents and may have foreign connections and the second type of crimes is where murder has taken place, kidnapping has taken place, dacoity has taken place—these two crimes should be differentiated. In the past, a day before yesterday, there was a bomb explosion in which two persons died and four got injured. During the past one and half years, there were 40 bomb explosions in Delhi. I am satisfied that the Delhi Police have earthed out such criminals as were involved in 36 out of 40 bomb explosions

...(Interruptions) I admit that we could not prevent the bomb blasts, but in the past four months there was only one bomb explosion, there were 39 incidents of Bomb blasts before that. I do not blame anybody. This problem is linked with the question of internal security of the country. Yesterday, I agreed to the statement of Shri Rajesh Pilot that we would discuss the internal security position of the entire country including the issue of I.S.I. As far as the question of normal crime like rape, murder, dacoity, theft, kidnapping etc. is concerned we have to make the police more alert to combat these crimes. We have to monitor the gangs inside our territory. This is also a part of the steps we have taken in this regard. I would like to tell our hon'ble Members that our country is a democratic country. There may be demonstrations etc. To stage a demonstration is everybody's right. The people sitting in opposition have more right to stage demonstration. When we were in opposition, we were also doing that. But I would also request the Parliament that the Delhi Police have their own problems they have intimated about their problems and one of these problems is that every year the population of Delhi increases by about five lakh.

Forty percent of population in Delhi lives in slums. The third thing which they have written :

[English]

"People from all parts of the country congregate in Delhi for demonstration, protests 'dharna' etc. This costs a heavy commitment on the Delhi Police for the maintenance of law and order."

[Translation]

All these aspects are such as increase the burden of Delhi Police. I am confident...(Interruptions) I believe that inspite of the increasing burden, over Delhi Police it is performing well...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Home Minister had admitted this fact very candidly that there has been complete break down of law and order in Delhi but in this House today he has delivered two contradictory statements in a single sentence. He also said that the law and order has collapsed and he also said that we are doing well and we are satisfied...(Interruptions) He has said it in a single sentence. He has particularly named the people living in slums. What was he pointing out?...(Interruptions) Was he pointing out that those living in slums violate the law?...(Interruptions) This is totally wrong...(Interruptions) You have demoralised the police utterly during your administration...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, what is your supplementary?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please ask your supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : I am asking the supplementary that they have downed the morale of the police to such an extent that they are feeling helpless today...(Interruptions) I also want to ask that what you are going to do in this respect so that police of Delhi can be able to protect Delhites? You have demoralised the police completely...(Interruptions) You tell us a time bound date by which you will fill a sense of security in the minds of Delhites...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Ration cards for slum dwellers were become invalid during your time...(Interruptions) Now, slum dwellers are not with you, they are with us...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Whatever statements, I have given in the recent past about law and order situation in Delhi, whether I made them outside or inside the Parliament, there is one similarity among them that due to the sense of insecurity—among the ordinary citizens, I admit as a Home Minister that today's law and order situation is not satisfactory. I did not say that it was satisfactory during the last fifty years and this deteriorated today...(Interruptions) I did not say like that...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : But, Sir, yesterday, you used the word 'deteriorating'...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I did not say that 39 bomb explosions had taken place earlier and now there has been only one bomb explosion in four months. I do not consider these figures important. I have always said that whichever Government comes to power, it is the responsibility of that Government to provide security to its citizens.

This Government is committed to that aspect. You have stated about time-bound action. I will not say that what you could not do during the last fifty years, I will do the same in five months. I do not say like that. But I certainly say that this Government will

continue to take all necessary steps which have been taken during these four months. The culprits who wander here and there, will soon realize that under this Government

[English]

crime does not pay and they will be punished for that.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Home Minister has, of course, rightly said that the terrorist activities in the country as a whole and the problem of law and order in which generally prevails a state are two different matters. Delhi is the capital of India. If the feeling of insecurity prevails there, a wrong message goes to entire country. You were voted to power in the name of removing fear but the figures of four months presented by you before us show that there is no improvement in this regard and the situation continues to mount high. This becomes evident from these figures. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Home Minister that in the name of improving the law and order situation the incidents of murder, rape, robbery on the highway, robbery of the vehicles etc. are taking place wherein the organized mafia groups of national level, of international level, and of Delhi level are involved, how many such mafia groups have been marked by you? In addition to this, what is their level and what action has been taken by the Delhi Police against them so far? The Delhi Police has been continuously saying that 48 lakh people live here in slums but the culprits who are apprehended, are apprehended in posh colonies. We read this in newspapers also. These two things are contradictory. So, I would like to know from the Minister about the level of groups found involved in these incidents.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble member has asked about the action to be taken in this regard. I will have to present figures about it also. I am not satisfied with that. Though the figures which have been placed by Delhi police before me show that during this period in 1997, 4015 persons were arrested under section 107, 109 and 110 under preventive sections of Criminal Procedure Code. This time 4117 persons were arrested. Nobody was arrested in 1997 under National Security Act but this time 14 such scoundrels or culprits were arrested. Likewise, the persons who were extorted for such activities, their number increased to 144 from 90 but I am continuously giving stress to the point that these figures are not the basis of my stand. I am presenting the figures only because of the thinking that during the last four months, the situation has deteriorated

or the situation is getting worse. But the situation is not deteriorating though it is not satisfactory. In order to make it satisfactory...*(Interruptions)* he has asked for the figures.

[English]

I have given these figures about the action taken.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is natural that the members get concerned about the law and order situation. I had raised the issue also during United Front Government and I would like to ask the same question from the hon'ble Home Minister. As regards the Dereliction of duties and lack of Superintendence regarding the police, whether S.H.O. is going to the police station or not, whether the work in police stations is going on well or not, whether the Additional Commissioners or DCPs are looking after their task or not, I would like to know that in how many such cases action has been taken and steps have been taken against them?

Secondly, a meeting was held with the Minister of Home Affairs. In that meeting the Delhi Police stated that they do not have sufficient police personnel to control the culprits only and they are required to make security arrangements in a very large number in order to ensure security of the V.I.Ps. It is a very big problem to make security arrangements for very very important persons.

I know that we have three such persons who are facing prosecution and who have been rejected by the public. Now they are not representing in the Parliament but a large number of police force is looking after their security. If you do not reduce the number of security personnel deputed on security arrangements for these very important persons, how will the police personnel become free? This is to be considered whether the police should serve the public or a handful of V.I.Ps. I am not required to state that these three persons have been M.P.s of Delhi...*(Interruptions)* I am speaking quite fairly ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

There are many VIPs.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, already half-an-hour is over. Please ask your supplementary. Please address the Chair and not the Members.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I only say that when crimes took place during the U.F. and the Congress

Government, then I sat and spoke from that side that the crimes are on the rise. I feel sorry to note that now when the Home Minister says that the situation is not satisfactory, the sound of clapping is heard from that side...*(Interruptions)* the crimes are taking place for the last many years and not from today.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, what is your supplementary?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : My first supplementary question is that how many times action was taken against the police personnel due to dereliction of duty? What action is being taken by the Home Minister to remove the security arrangements of Delhi Police and other arrangements too from those very important persons who are under prosecution...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about all the persons. That should be reviewed. I am talking in terms of reviewing.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after taking charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the issues on which I have been continuously discussing with the officers, are that a large number of our police force is engaged on the task of security of V.I.P's due to which the general situation of law and order and the general safety of the citizens are affected. This should not go on. I have given them such general instructions but at the same time I also know that when the terrorists select any soft target and kill six persons by exploding bomb, they do not get that much of satisfaction as compared to that they get through publicity by killing a prominent persons. Therefore, in the situation of terrorism, it is the responsibility of Government to make security arrangements for the prominent personality and for those who are responsible and are Members of Parliament. It is also the responsibility of the Government to find solution of the crisis wherever it prevails. I cannot bear the responsibility of conciliating both these matters but there is a committee of officers which decided the issue on the basis of evaluation of threat perception. Sometimes our M.Ps. tell the hon'ble Speaker that they had asked for the security but was not provided. Then the matter comes to me and I send it to the same committee. I have given a general instruction to them that if any Member of Parliament feels himself insecure, he should be provided with security arrangements. I have told him about this but I agree with what you are saying that the safety of the

common public cannot be ignored while shouldering responsibility for safety of the prominent persons. I consider it the duty of the Government to remain alert about their safety as well.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of the law and order situation of Delhi arises from this issue but it is also proved therefrom that in order to maintain law and order of the country, very strong and long sighted steps should be taken. In reply to this question, it has been stated that we are ordering for more police patrol in the city, making efforts to collect information from surrounding states and are making surveillances. This type of information has been given.

This work is important, it must be done but what is more important is to ascertain as to how much police force we should have with us. Is the number of Police personnel in proportion to the number of people sufficient? Are that means whether it is the means of communication, the means to collect information, the means of transport or the means of analysing information adequate? If they are not adequate, then what is being done by the Government to ensure that the law and order situation of Delhi, the capital of India is improved?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The question raised by Shri Shivrajji is also important in regard to Delhi in the sense that eight years back in 1990, there were 452 police personnel after one lakh population of Delhi but this figure has come down to 351 because there is a significant rise in the population and there is no increase in the number of police personnel to that proportion. Whatever recommendation is made to increase the number of police personnel, we are not able to implement the same due to financial constraints. There is one more problem that we do not have rapid transportation system as Metro in Mumbai or at other places is available.

[English]

Congestion of traffic on the roads is very high. It is abnormal.

[Translation]

These are all additional programmes. Keeping that in view, we have planned to open 17 more police stations and more important than the same is that their monitoring should be done so that whatever instructions are given to them, they should be followed strictly. I am alert about that.

[English]

Generation of Employment

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*583. SHRI RAJO SINGH :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the employment generated in the organised sector during the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of unemployed persons in the country, State-wise till April, 1998;

(c) the number of technically qualified registered unemployed persons provided employment annually in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide employment to unemployed persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

The employment in the organised sector (all public sector establishments and all non-agricultural establishments in the private sector employing 10 or more workers) which was of the order of 273.79 lakh as on 31st March, 1994 has gone up to 282.144 lakh as on 31st March, 1997 (latest available) as per the information collected through Employment Market Information Programme of Directorate General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour.

The number of job-seekers, all of whom need not necessarily be unemployed, on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in various States/UT as on April, 1998, and the number of technically qualified (Diploma holders and Graduates & Post Graduates in Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary, Agriculture, Law and Education) job-seekers placed through the Employment Exchanges during the year 1994 and January to June 1995 (latest available) are given in the Annexure.

The Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and