

12.03 hrs.

**Title: Regarding incident occurred at the Army Recruitment Rally at Lucknow.**

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a recruitment rally had been scheduled in Lucknow Cantonment Area from 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2002. On 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2002, about 5,000 young men had assembled at the Cantonment Area for the recruitment rally. At approximately 0600 hours, over 100 of these young boys who had also come to participate in the recruitment rally, were sitting on the concrete roof of a sewage tank, waiting for the rally activities to begin.

Probably due to the overload, the sewage tank roof collapsed and several young men fell into the tank. Prompt rescue and relief operations were launched to save the victims. 21 dead bodies have been recovered. Three injured young men are under treatment in Command hospital.

The tragic incident triggered off mob violence by the large crowds which had gathered for the recruitment rally. Police reinforcements had to be rushed to the site to control the situation. A number of civil and army vehicles have been damaged by the mob. The situation had been controlled by the police and the mob

Had been dispersed from the cantonment area by afternoon. The mob had also damaged some civil vehicles in the civil area adjoining the cantonment.

Hon. Prime Minister has announced an *ex gratia* relief of Rs.1 lakh each to the families of those who have died in this tragic incident. In addition, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has also announced an *ex gratia* relief of Rs.1 lakh each to the families of those who have died, Rs.25,000 each to those who are severely injured and Rs.5000 each to those who have received minor injuries.

A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by the Central Command into this unfortunate incident.

As per the latest information received, the death toll of the tragic incident which occurred at the recruitment rally site in Lucknow Cantonment Area on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2002, has reached 23. Three more casualties which had been taken out from the tank and taken away to some local civil hospital were later reported by the civil administration. Two persons out of these three casualties succumbed to injuries in the hospital, one person still remains in the civil hospital and is under medical treatment. Therefore, the total death toll has come to 23.

As per the information received the tragic incident had occurred at about 0555 hours on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2002. Within about five to ten minutes ambulances from Command and Base Hospitals had arrived on the scene of accident. One QRT Vehicle (Quick Recovery Transport) was also available on the rally site. Because of the immediate assistance which became available the casualties from the tank were removed expeditiously and by about 0630 to 0640 hours, these casualties had been sent to the Command Hospital for treatment.

His Excellency, Governor of Uttar Pradesh had visited the site of incident around 1730 hours on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2002 and later also visited the Command Hospital and met the patients under treatment.

( Placed in Library, See No. LT 5196/2002)

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day are treated as laid on the Table of the House. ... (Interruptions)**

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :The House will now take up the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. ... (Interruptions)**

12.06 hrs.

(इस समय कुंवर अखिलेश सिंह तथा कुछ अन्य माननीय सदस्य आये और सभा पटल के निकट फर्श पर बैठ गए )

12.08 hrs.