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Title : Statement regarding blasts at Sankat Mochan Temple and Cantonment Railway Station, Varanasi.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a statement regarding the two blasts that took place yesterday evening in Varanasi, one at Sankat Mochan temple and the other at the Cantonment Railway Station....(Interruptions[bru1])

As per the initial information received from the State Government, these two blasts occurred almost simultaneously around 6.20 in the evening and, in these blasts, 14 persons including 1 woman and 1 child have been killed and 103 persons got injured. ...(Interruptions) All the injured have been shifted to the hospitals for treatment. ...(Interruptions)

An ex-gratia amount of Rs. 5 lakh has been announced for the next of kin of those killed and an amount of Rs. 1 lakh for those injured seriously and Rs. 50,000 for those with minor injuries. ...(Interruptions)

Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, National Advisory Council and I have visited the sites of the blasts with senior officers of the Ministry and visited the injured persons in the hospitals. ...(Interruptions) We condemn these inhuman and senseless acts of terror on innocent people and deeply condole these and convey our deep sympathies to the aggrieved families. ...(Interruptions) The temple was targeted understandably to cause communal tension in the country. ...(Interruptions)

The Central Government reviewed the situation immediately after these blasts and the State Governments were sensitised to step up vigil and take all precautionary measures to ensure communal peace and harmony. ...(Interruptions) The people were asked to remain calm and maintain peace. â€¦ (Interruptions) Additional forces (five companies of RAF and ten companies of

**\* (Placed in Library, See No. LT 3806/06)**

PAC) were deployed in Varanasi for maintenance of peace and public order. ...(Interruptions) The Central Government is in constant touch with the State Government and is closely monitoring the situation. ...(Interruptions)

The State Government has entrusted the investigation of these blasts to the Special Task Force. No arrests have so far been made in this regard. ...(Interruptions) The State Government is taking all possible steps to nab the perpetrators of the blasts. ...(Interruptions) The Central Government will render all possible help and assistance. ...(Interruptions)

I would like to assure the august House that the Government remains firmly committed to combating terrorism. ...(Interruptions) All of us have to ensure that such acts of terror by some desperate anti-national elements do not disturb peace, public order and communal harmony in the country and would not be allowed to undermine our determination to combat, control and contain the violence. ...(Interruptions)

MR.SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2006 at 1100 hours.

**12.07 hrs.**

**The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock**

*on Thursday, March 9, 2006/Phalguna 18, 1927 (Saka). [r2]*

[\[2\]](#) Friday, March 10, 2000/Phalguna 20, 1921 (Saka).