

Title: Made a statement regarding bomb blasts in Assam.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): On December 18, 1998, at 1105 hours, a powerful bomb blast occurred in a car, 200 metres away from Dispur Janata Bhavan on Guwahati-Shillong Road, near Assam Tea Auction Centre. As a result of this blast, 6 persons lost their lives. Besides, 46 persons, including 25 construction labourers working nearby, were injured. The injured persons were admitted in Guwahati Medical College Hospital. Preliminary investigation indicates that three of the victims killed were inside the car in which the bomb had been planted. Five persons have been arrested so far. Further investigation is in progress.

On December 19, 1998, there was another incident in which a powerful bomb exploded while a police party was crossing a wooden bridge at Laokhowapara village, about 11 kms. from Bilasipara, in Dhubri district. As a result of this explosion, 10 persons, including the officer in-charge of Bilasipara Police Station and five other police personnel, were killed on the spot. This police party had gone to conduct a raid in Raniganj area in connection with some cases. The incident took place when the police party was returning in a jeep after apprehending four accused persons. The four accused persons travelling in the jeep were also killed. ULFA extremists are suspected to be behind this bomb blast.

Following the incident, massive search has been undertaken, and security arrangements in Dhubri district have been strengthened. State DGP and other senior civil and police officers also visited the site.

The Government of Assam has announced payment of Rs. 5 lakhs to the next of kin of the police personnel killed.

SHRI ABDUL HAMID (DHUBRI): Thirty-eight people have been killed in the last week. (Interruptions).

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have a long list of the incidents that have taken place. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: After the statement of the hon. Minister, you cannot ask a clarification in this House.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL HAMID : It is a serious matter. Twenty people of the minority communities have been killed by the extremists. But, so far, no action has been taken by the Government. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I do not know how I have to deal with you.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Home Minister has made a statement.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The list will not be exhaustive. Even in the statement that I have made

उपाध्यक्ष जी, राजेश पायलट जी ने आन्तरिक सुरक्षा की स्थिति के वातावरण के बारे में पूछा था। चूंकि यहां पर कल दो बम बलास्टस की बात की गई थी, इसलिये मैंने उसके बारे में अलग से स्टेटमेंट दिया लेकिन मैंने इस बात को वक्तव्य में कहा है कि असम में स्थिति पिछले महीनों में बिगड़ी है। मैंने इसको स्वीकार किया है कि एन.ई.के...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (GUWAHATI): Everyday, there is a killing in Assam and bomb blasts are happening on every alternate day. The law and order has collapsed. We do not see any serious measures being taken by the Government. The State Government also has failed to maintain the law and order situation. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why do you not sit? Shri Kalita, you please hear the hon. Home Minister.

... (Interruptions)