

that he has with him.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : I would like to say something if possible earlier, or afterwards. It pertains to my city.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Afterwards.

19.59 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTRY
BOMB BLASTS IN BOMBAY -CONTD.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I have informed the House a short while ago that today a tragic incident has occurred in Bombay. I had given all the information to the House that had reached the Government by that time. I went back and tried to a talk to the Chief Minister. But the entire administration was busy at that time in providing relief to the affected people. Some people were being taken to hospitals. I talked to the Chief Minister five minutes back. He explained to me that there was a bomb blast at Bombay Exchange, Dalal Street about half past one today. There were different kinds of bomb blasts at 13 places within the duration of two hours from half past one to quarter to three. According to the Government of Maharashtra, bombs were kept in vehicles and cars and they are parked in crowded area. Probably these were time bombs. The moment it was the fixed time, bombs blasted at 13 places within two hours. In these bomb blasts, our 84 people were killed.

18.00 hrs..

495 persons have been injured and about 150 of them are serious, and the condition of 22 persons of them is very critical. All injured persons have been admitted to hospitals. The situation is well under control of the State Government. It is making all possible efforts to help. The Chief

Minister of the State has assured me that the situation is well under control. We have assured him that the State will be given full cooperation from the Centre. It will be provided para military forces and specialists to find out the nature of the blasts and fix the responsibility. We have decided to send a high-level team to Bombay within an hour. The team will comprise experts from the RAW, I.B., N.S.G., R.B. and bomb disposal squads. They are scheduled to reach at night so that prompt action may be taken there. Then we will come to know as to where, how and in what manner the incident took place.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have assured the Chief Minister of the State that in order to have control over the situation the Central Government will provide every assistance whenever asked by the State. Moreover, red alert has been sounded in the country. All sensitive areas have been taken under control to avert spread of such incidents. I agree with Shri Advani that everybody was concerned with such incidents. He has rightly pointed out that the blast took place in a train. According to the information it was the local train wherein the blast took place. Keeping this in view the Government has made adequate arrangement to stave off the recurrence of such mishaps. So far as the Maharashtra Government is concerned, I have intimated the Chief Minister personally that adequate arrangements have been made and a team will be sent there today itself. I have talked with the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and he has said that he would personally visit Bombay and assess the situation. If there is any other information besides it, I will inform you.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have the latest information about the bomb blasts in Bombay and these 13 places which have been indicated are the most sensitive places in Bombay. They are, Air Indian's building, Stock Exchange, Katha Bazar, Shiv Sena building, Century Bazar, worli, Passport Office, Centaur Hotel

[Sh. Ram Naik]

near Airport, Madanpura, Plaza Cinema in Dadar, Machhimar Colony in Mahim, Nayar Hospital and Manish Market near Police Commissioner's office. A chain of bomb blasts have been there and my information is, about 176 persons have died so far. The number is not material, but the situation is very tense there. In view of this, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of one very important point and this is, when the former Governor of Maharashtra Shri C. Subramaniam and resigned his post, on that very day in his first Press Conference he said that there is a foreign hand in Bombay riots. So, I would like the Government to look into it from that angle also. This is one aspect which should be gone into.

Sir, from the Bharatiya Janata Party side, we have arranged for a series of dharmas and protest meetings against the Railways Budget and the General Budget. I have announced the withdrawal of that agitation earlier. I am announcing it here also that we have withdraw the agitation in view of this tragic happening, because this is something where we should all come together. Now, we are going immediately to Bombay as soon as the House rises for the day.

I do appeal that the citizens of Bombay should take it in their stride and maintain peace. If this appeal goes from the House, I feel it would be better. On such occasions, something like crises management should be done with all seriousness in the city. This is what I would like to say on this occasion.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North General) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of these 13 places, three incidents have taken place in my constituency itself.

I would like to know whether the transport etc. is going on normal in Bombay and whether the situation is calm and quiet, at least at present.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: For the information of the House, let me put the 13

places on record:

1. Bombay Stock Exchange - 4th floor.
2. In a truck carrying chemicals at Pydhonie.
3. In a local train near Karjat.
4. Near Century Bazar, Worli,
5. Near Oberoi Hotel - Air India Office.
6. Near Shiv Sena Bhavan, Dadar.
7. Near Manish Market.
8. Near Mantralaya.
9. Plaza Theatre.
10. Centaur Hotel.
11. Bus near Century Bazar.
12. In the Opera House Bazar.
13. Near Masjid Bandar Railway Station.

These are 13 places.

The Chief Minister has told me about the situation. The traffic is normal. Everything is functioning normally except near these places, there is crowd, relatives and other people are gathered there. But relief measures and other measures have been taken.

What the hon. Member has said is very right. Crisis is there. The State Government is in action. That is why, from the Centre, we are sending a very high level team including RAW officers, IB officers, experts on bomb explosion so that all apprehensions of any hand is known to the nation and we leave no stone unturned to find out who has done it and why it has been done and to take possible corrective measures.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: What has happened in Bombay is obviously planned by some agency which has very wide network. So, we should be cautious in

respect of other such metropolitan cities, all of them, so that our focus may be at Bombay at the moment to provide necessary relief and to bring about normalcy at the earliest. But to anticipate therefore, the intelligence network should be very very alert. There is obviously a failure at the level of intelligence. Otherwise such a wide spread conspiracy should not have got up in this manner. I would like to caution the Government in that respect.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The hon. Member has said about the appeal. We share the sentiments of this appeal and share the grief of the bereaved families. The appeal can go from the House.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Wiberia) : On behalf of the whole House, you can make an appeal to the country so that peace is restored.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, this is the sense of the House. We make an appeal to the people of Bombay to maintain peace and tranquility and also sending consolation to the bereaved families. The House sends its sympathy to the injured ones and we hope that peace will come back very soon in Bombay so that everybody can live happily.

Now the time is past Six O'clock. Do I have the sense of the House to extend the time till the half-an-hour discussion is completed?

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rasa Singh Rawat.

18.08 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

MANDAL COMMISSION REPORT
(CONTD)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer)
: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been mentioned

that the Supreme Court gave its verdict on the Mandal Commission on November 16, 1992. If the decision taken by the Vishwanath Pratap Singh Government is implemented I would like to know through you whether the Central Government has appointed any Commission after the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the Mandal Commission to collect information of the Backward castes from State Governments and enlist these castes in the category of Backward castes. If so, what was the reaction of the different States and which States have prepared the list of Backward castes, what action has been taken by them and whether any guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Welfare on its own?

Sir, when a decision of setting up the National Commission was taken what was the criteria of choosing the "creamy layers" in backward classes for which the Government has appointed an experts Committee. It should be clarified. Sir, when was an announcement to this effect made in the newspapers or on Radio and Television.

The people who are socially, economically and educationally backward are worried that even if they have been enlisted in a particular caste in the category of backward classes which was prepared earlier, they might not find a place in the new set up under the pretext that they belong to the "creamy layer". People are very apprehensive about it. Through you, I would like to know from the Government whether it has issued certain guidelines to that expert's committee in this regard also. What will be their criteria and base for identifying the 'creamy layer'? Whether there is any possibility to review the final decision taken in this connection.

The intention of the Government seems to be malafied because the decision was given on November 16, 1992. One hundred days have passed since then, yet there is no progress. The action is being taken at a snails' pace. It should be expedited. Why it is not being expedited? Why does the Government hesitate?