

12. 00 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Bombay Bomb Blasts***[English]*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B.CHAVAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that the Hindi version of the statement is not available at the moment however, copies of the English version of the Statement have been circulated to all the Members.

As the House is aware, the bomb blasts which rocked Bombay in March last year to the great shock of all Indians, were speedily investigated and the trial is under way before the Designated Court in Bombay. The Government would like to take the House into confidence to announce the apprehension of one of the principal accused namely Yakub Abdul Razak Memon by our security agencies at Delhi this morning.

A large number of incriminating documents including Pakistani passports and Pak identity documents of Yakub and other members of the Memon family recovered from the accused provide irrefutable evidence and confirm the complicity of Pakistan in Bombay blasts. The members of the Memon family, who fled Bombay on the eve of the blasts were taken to Karachi from Dubai. They were given all resource back up, shelter and facilities organised by Pak authorities to live under assumed names. Involvement of Dawood Ibrahim in Bombay explosions and his presence in Karachi have also been confirmed.

The present revelations fully reinforce the evidence already available and provide further confirmation of the involvement of

Pakistan in sponsoring terrorist activities in India. Now, at least, it should be clear to the world at large how Pakistan has been making concerted efforts to create terror and destabilisation in our country.

It may be recalled that Yakub Abdul Razak Memon has been declared a proclaimed offender and a reward of Rs.5 lakh has been announced by the CBI. The Central Bureau of Investigation which has already been entrusted with the investigation of the case is taking further action in the matter. The success of the security agencies in making this important breakthrough deserves the appreciation of the House.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar): Sir, we all appreciate it and we congratulate the Home Minister for this.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring to the notice of the House the fact that in Orissa the passengers travelling in buses are being harassed due to the frequent hike in bus fares. Within the span of last two years the bus fares have been doubled. Only recently the fare has been increased by 2 paise per Km. There are so many agitations and picketing in regard to this. In fact a number of people have lost their lives and properties in the disturbances created by these agitations. I am afraid that the present agitation may lead to a worse situation.

12.04 hrs.

*[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]*

I would request the Government to intervene in the matter and bring a solution to the problem

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a large number of Low Power Transmitters have been set up by Doordarshan all over the country. This is a good step and we would like to congratulate the Government, particularly, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for this.

Sir, only one person is being posted after the completion of a Lower Power Transmitter probably for guarding the instruments. They are not providing additional staff not even the bare minimum staff to run them. Sometimes, immediately after inauguration of the Low Power Transmitters, they go out of order and nobody is there to take care of them.

In fact the LPTs although completed and inaugurated are not functioning in many places. This is creating resentment among the people. If such a state of affairs continues, I am afraid, the people, in some places, out of anguish, may also demonstrate and cause damage to the Lower Power Transmitters.

I am given to understand that some proposals regarding recruitment of staff and so on of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are pending in the Ministry of Finance for clearance. This should be expedited. If it is not expedited, there may be chances of damage to costly instruments. Then, again it will be very difficult to get additional funds for the purpose of repairing the damaged instruments.

Secondly, as far as setting up of some Low Power Transmitters in places like Kuchinda and Pallahara which are in my constituency, are concerned, there is an inordinate delay. It is intriguing that places like Deogarh and Pallahara which were included in the earlier list for the purpose of

Low Power Transmitters and which were to be completed long back are yet to be made functional. Although as per the 1992-93 list, many places had been covered but these places had been ignored. It was the former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Panja who had decided to provide LPTs in these places. I emphatically protest for such discriminatory approach. Why do they not set up LPTs in an orderly manner? I welcome setting up of LPTs at new places but at the same time, it should be done in a systematic manner, according to plan and programme.

I, therefore, request the Government of India, particularly, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to look into this matter and find out the people who are playing mischief.

Thirdly, Sir, although the Government buildings, with adequate facilities are available, yet Doordarshan authorities are taking private buildings on rent. Even while taking private buildings on rent, the most suitable buildings with comparatively lower rents are being ignored. It is done obviously to show favours to some selected individuals.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Panigrahi, it is not a matter of urgent public importance. Only matters of urgent public importance should be raised in the Zero Hour.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): It is detrimental to our interest. That is why I am bringing this matter to the notice of this august House. I would request the Government of India to take necessary remedial measures in this direction.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Home Minister a very

serious matter, through you, the most pathetic plight of many innocent citizens who had been arrested under TADA and who had been languishing in various jails of our country. Sir, I can very well understand if a culprit or an offender is arrested and put behind the bar.

It is matter of pleasure and happiness for all of us to know that the Central Investigation Agency has taken certain steps and some culprits have been arrested. But the innocent people have been arrested under TADA.

The gross abuse of the provisions of TADA in different States by the State Officials has really created a fear in the minds of the innocent people and their families in the country.

This matter has been brought to the notice of the Home Minister. I personally brought this matter to the notice of the Chief Ministers of the Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. They have promised and assured that this matter will be looked into; but, unfortunately, it has not yet been looked into.

The Supreme Court has made observations in a case where the validity of the TADA has been challenged. They have observed that while upholding its validity, keeping in view the doctrine of speedy trial which was read into Article 21, 'The right to life and liberty' of the Constitution as an essential part of the Fundamental Rights to life and liberty and which concept was manifested in the Act the designated court should dispose of a pending case without giving room for any complaint or unnecessary delay.

But many of the State Governments have not followed this rule. Therefore, the

hon. Home Minister may respond to it. All the Members have been raising it and the Government is mum. Therefore, it is the duty of the Central Government to respond to this matter.

SHRI S.B.CHAVAN: It is a fact that there are a large number of State Governments where a number of people have been arrested under TADA. In fact, they have not taken care to see that those cases are expedited and the final charge-sheets are also filed in the court. Even in cases where the TADA is not attracted, there have been a large number of cases where there has been misuse of the TADA.

I have personally written to all the Chief Ministers to review those cases; and on a periodical basis, they should go on reviewing. If there are any innocent people involved, they should take immediate action to see that the innocent people are not being harassed in the matter. But, at the same time, those who are definitely involved in the TADA offences, they should, of course, be tried under the TADA only.

So, this is the precaution that we have to take. I am sure, the respective Chief Ministers will review the cases. They have already set up committees, and those committees will definitely take a review of these pending cases.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to a very serious incident that has been reported in the press from Bombay.

It has been reported in a section of the press that about 200 women employees of MTNL gheraoed the General Manager (Long Distance) for sexual harassment and slapped him on Wednesday, the 3rd Au-

gust, 1994, at Bombay. It is said that the action was spontaneous on behalf of women. About 200 women employees approached the General Manager at his residence in Fort Exchange Building and dragged him to the office at Telephone Building in Fort where he was beaten up by the women. It is alleged that the General Manager who had been transferred from Delhi to Bombay used to impose himself on the telephone operators. If they refused his advances, he used to hold up their honoraria and increase the same if the women gave in to his demands. It is said that he was transferred on similar charges from Delhi to Bombay. The allegations are that the General Manager forced women employees to work late at night and he would remain in the office with these women. It is even alleged that he used to call the operators to his house on Saturdays and Sundays.

The allegations are very serious. I would request the Minister of Communications to look into the matter. If the allegations are true, then stern action may be taken in this matter.

SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW (Idukki):  
Sir, I have given my name to speak on the necessity of introducing total prohibition in the country. Prohibition is a basic sine qua non for economic prosperity and poverty eradication of any country.

I do not think there is any crime which is worse than total addiction to drinking. The prime cause of most of the crimes in the country is drinking. The course of anti-social activities is also the same. Now prostitution of women, murder of women and children and so many other kinds of crimes are taking place on almost all days in some parts of the country. Sex crime and cruelty are also being perpetrated.

We know that liquor kills people but still people take to it. Now it is injurious to health and longevity also. Thousands of families are being ruined economically and financially. This should be ended.

Sir, I have one more suggestion about this. Everyday liquor shops are coming like mushrooms in so many parts of the country. There should be an end to it and especially those shops which come very near to the places of worships, like Temples, Churches and Mosques. The shopkeepers are finding so many excuses to set up these shops near the places of worships. There should be more strict legislation without any loophole so that this problem should be thrashed out. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jajpur):  
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a very important matter and I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this.

There are a huge number of landless families particularly of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who are in occupation of land belonging to Government or Zamindars, over the last 20 to 100 years. They are denied the record of rights.

It is my observation that there are no guidelines given by the Government. Informally they instruct the officers not to record their names. I have seen people who are there for over 100 years.

Since the settlement operation in Orissa now is on, I urge upon the Government to issue instructions to Orissa Government to issue record of rights or Patta in favour of landless Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe occupants. Thank you, Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution to an important matter. Sir, the irregularities on a large scale are being committed in the purchase of goods in Super Bazaar. Hardwares worth crores of rupees for sale to local consumers and Biscuits, etc. for Child Development Project are purchased every year. As per the orders of the Government, these items should be purchased from registered contractors or from the lowest bidders on merit basis after tenders are invited through the main newspapers but the organisers of Super Bazaar are brazenly flouting all the rules and behaving arbitrarily. Recently when several other Members and I corresponded in this regard, the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution invited comments. Keeping in view the gravity of the situation, a notice was published in Indian Express on 15th July, 1994 that any unregistered contractor or any other person desirous of supplying goods to Super Bazaar should see the Notice Board on the fifth floor but it was not a tender. It is quite ridiculous. What exactly does the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution want to drive home? I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he would get the entire case probed? It is also my submission that this scam which took place in the last 3 years should be probed into and all the details should come to light and the matter should be discussed in this House. The investigation should also be made in regard to the value of goods purchased and the value for which the tenders were invited, the names of the bidders quoting the lowest prices, the names of the newspapers in which the tender notices were published for purchase of goods worth

billions of rupees.

[*English*]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Sir, Sikkim is a small State in the North-Eastern region. Before it was merged with the Indian Union it was an independent sovereign country. But it was merged with the Indian Union in 1975 and it became a very important State, and a part and parcel of the country.

What is happening now in Sikkim is very strange. It is very difficult to explain how it has happened. In a House of 32, 17 MLAs have resigned and only 14 Members have been running the State. I am raising this in the House because, what is the constitutional propriety of this system? Why does the Central Government not intervene in the matter? Why has President's rule not been imposed in that State? That is why I am raising it here.

The Sikkim Sangram Parishad had played an important role in merging the then sovereign country with the Indian Union and on account of the falling of the Government of the Sikkim Sangram Parishad the present stalemate has started.

I am raising this point so that democracy should not be made a mockery of. On account of Sikkim being a small State nothing is being done. If it happens in a big State like Maharashtra, Bihar, U.P or West Bengal, would the Central Government remain looking like this? It is a very serious matter on which the Government has to respond and make a statement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertsganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw

the attention of the House to the most backward district, Sonbhadra of Uttar Pradesh. Kanhar Project is proposed to be built on Kanhar River in village Ambar in Duddi Tehsil of Sonbhadra district. The project was started in 1974 with a view to provide irrigation facilities and solve the problem of shortage of drinking water in Duddi, Vindhamganj and Pandu Besan region of this drought affected Adivasi - dominated area. It is proposed to irrigate about 26,065 hectares of cultivable land of the said area through the right and left side canals of Kanhar River by constructing about 39.9 metre high dam over this river. The broad out-lines of the project are:-

The work on this scheme had commenced in the year 1974 and its cost at that time was estimated about Rs.27.75 crores but subsequently it went up to Rs.150.70 crores in 1985. An expenditure to the tune of Rs.37.50 crores has been incurred on this project on March 1994. The financial approval to the plan was initially sent by the Uttar Pradesh Government vide 258/79-23/C-4/99 W , dated 29.3.79.

Initially, in the Plan Madhya Pradesh area likely to be sub-merged was assessed to be 184 hectares which came to 258 hectares after a correct assessment. That is why, this scheme is pending with the Central Water Commission. The process of getting its approval from Madhya Pradesh is also in progress. The project work has also been suspended since 1982-83 in the absence of announcement regarding financial assistance but an amount of Rs.50 lakh on the regular employees and an amount of Rs.10 lakh on the regular establishment are being annually incurred. Approximately, 70 per cent of the earth-filling work has already been completed on the right and the left side

of the main Kanhar dam. Certain concrete work now left and right side of the canal has also been undertaken but due to suspension of work for the last 10-11 years, these sites have been getting damaged. The construction work of certain buildings at various places has also been completed under this project. The heavy 'earth-mover' machines worth rupees four crores and fifty lakhs which had been purchased in 1978-79 are gradually developing faults. An area of 4 thousand 47 acre cultivable land and 2422 acre of forest land have been acquired under this project.

Only the work concerning sewage and construction of main dam remains to be done under the project. This project can be made beneficial by spending around Rs.60 crores in 4 years. The Duddi Tehsil of Sonbhadra district and border area of Madhya Pradesh can also be made to benefit from this project. But the funds are getting wasted because this project is pending with the Central Water Commission.

Therefore, we demand from the Government to get the said project completed immediately by providing financial assistance.

[*Translation*]

\* SHRI V.S.VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palakkad): The Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express has started on 1.7.1994. But it has only one stop in Kerala, namely Ernakulam. This does not benefit the majority of people of the State.

I alongwith my colleagues in Parliament demanded many times that Rajdhani should have a halt at Palakkad. We met the Hon'ble Minister, but nothing has been done

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

so far.

[English]

Palakkad is a divisional headquarters. Besides, a stop at this station will help people in districts of Kerala and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. Thus it will benefit about 40% of the people of the State. It is learnt that the Rajdhani is going to be run on the Alleppy-Kayankula route which will save it about an hour. Besides, this train moves rather slow in the Palakkad sector due to the change in signalling. Thus, a halt at Palakkad is not going to affect the total running time of the train. If there is no stop at Palakkad, majority of the people will be deprived of the benefit of this train.

I would, therefore, demand a halt to the Rajdhani Express at Palakkad.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a serious and important problem of border-line area.

At the time of Indo-China war, a proposal under the Prime Ministership of late Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, had been submitted to construct a road for Assam - Laddakh border area. The road was constructed upto Darbhanga (Bihar) at that time but road between Forbisgarj-Darbhanga, a distance of only 50-60 k.m., could not be constructed. This road links the border areas of China and Nepal. In view of the security of our country, the remaining road needs to be constructed immediately.

That is why, I demand from the Central Government to make arrangements to immediately get this road constructed in the national interest.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): I would like to draw the attention of the House to the difficult situation that Sikkimis going through. The continuance of minority government with having less than 50 per cent of the total strength of the State Assembly in Sikkim, in total disregard of democracy and the Constitution, is causing great damage to the emotional assimilation of the people of this very tiny, young State which merged with this great country, India, in 1975 only.

This assumes greater importance taking in view the statement made by the Vice President and the Foreign Minister of China who had come recently to India and in Delhi that China stands by its stand taken in 1975 as regards Sikkim. That means, they still have not recognised the State of Sikkim as part of India.

Here, the question arises: why did the people of Sikkim wish to merge with this great country, India? It was basically because of their faith in democracy that they wanted to merge with this great country and to participate in the democracy. But what is happening today? More than fifty per cent of the Members of State Legislature have already resigned. This lame, unconstitutional, illegal government is being supported by the ruling Party at the Centre. To what effect will this lead to strengthen a larger democracy in Sikkim? I would like to urge upon the Central Government to impose the President's rule in Sikkim so that fair and free elections could be conducted as soon as possible so that the people of Sikkim could choose the Government of their choice and any person foisted by any Party should not be acceptable to the people of Sikkim.....[Interruptions]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:  
Why Sikkim is being treated like this?

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER: Madam, we are supposed to complete this Zero Hour by 12. 30<sup>h</sup> p.m. Since you have raised your hand, I did not want to deny the opportunity.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:  
Sir, I will finish in one minute.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: Madam, you cannot expect the Government to respond immediately. The Government has noted whatever you have said. Please excuse me now. There is no time left for the Zero Hour discussion.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:  
Sir, Please give me just one minute. Sir, the Home Minister was on record saying that we cannot take the things for granted.....*[Interruptions]* \*

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: This will not go on record. Dr. Ravi Mallu to speak now.....

*[Interruptions]*

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:  
Sir, this is really an injustice. I was elected by the people.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: No arguments, please.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:  
Sir, this is really an injustice.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: Madam,

whatever feelings that you have expressed have gone on record. The Government have also noted it.....

*[Interruptions]*

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:  
Sir, I am walking out in protest.

12. 36 hrs.

*At this stage, Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari left the House.*

DR.R. MALLU (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, Dr. Ambedkar Foundation under the Ministry of Welfare have announced Dr.Ambedkar awards for those people who have done excellent work for the upliftment of the weaker sections. But unfortunately, though the awards were announced three years back, till today, the awards were not given to anybody. Money was allocated; modalities were finalised and the Committee was formed for finalisation and selection of the candidates who have done excellent work for the upliftment of the weaker sections. The awards for the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are yet to be finalised. Money is lying with Dr. Ambedkar Foundation and if this trend continues a wrong signal will go to the weaker sections that the Government is not that serious to finalise the list of awardees. Another thing is that an amount of Rs.5.5 crore was allotted for the construction of Dr.Ambedkar Library, but still the work has not been taken up. I request the Minister of Welfare to take up these two things and see that action is taken immediately on top priority basis.