

12.00 hrs.

RE: BOMB BLAST AT THE RSS HEADQUARTERS IN MADRAS ON 8-8-93

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention as well as the attention of the House to the tragic bomb-blast that occurred at the RSS Headquarters in Madras on 8th August. Eleven innocent persons were killed and many injured in this explosion. This explosion is also a part of Bombay and Calcutta bomb blasts and similar to those explosions. Whatever happened in the office of RSS in Madras is the work of the external forces. That is why we have demanded for a CBI inquiry into it and punish the persons responsible for it. We are demanding a CBI inquiry into it because there is also possibility that the persons involved in this conspiracy are from outside Tamilnadu. (Interruptions)

The terrorist activities are increasing because of the criminalisation of politics in the country. The Government may please clarify as to whether it had prior information about the smuggling of RDX explosives in Tamilnadu and if so, what action was taken by the Government? Had the Central Government exposed the conspiratorial alliance for bomb blasts between the mafia and the international gangs and arrested them, the recent bomb blast could have been averted.

I have one another point to raise that Parni Baba, the leader of the Jihad movement in his speech—as referred to in the newspapers recently—threatened to blow off the RSS office and 'Kanchhi Math'. It was not a mere threat but some persons were working in this direction. A bomb blast has already occurred at the RSS office and I would like to say that 'Kanchhi Math' should be saved... (Interruptions)

An international agency has been involved in the Madras bomb explosions, and they want to destroy the unity and integrity of the country. Therefore, I would like the Government to give a statement

on it and save the country. I would also like to know the measures being taken by the Government to check the tendency of criminalisation in politics in the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is the Government interested in responding to it? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Anbarasu Era to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER : A CBI inquiry should be conducted into it.

MR. SPEAKER : Look, there is no use to speak like this.

[English]

SHRI ANBARASU ERA (Madras Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ghastly incident of bomb blast in the RSS Office in Chetput falls in my own constituency, that is, Madras Central. It is really very unfortunate and a heinous crime has been committed. Whoever it may be, Sir, I wish the Government of India should take serious steps to find out the culprits.

Sir, I really appreciate the effective steps taken by the Prime Minister by sending Shri Rajesh Pilot immediately to Madras. (Interruptions) I am coming to the point; please wait for one minute.

Sir, the Prime Minister of this country promptly and immediately sent Shri Rajesh Pilot whereas the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was more interested in the election campaign. Therefore, I appreciate the steps taken by the Central Government. (Interruptions)

The bomb blast took away the lives of eleven persons. (Interruptions)

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunneveli) : It is natural calamity.

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Do not politicise this kind of an issue (Interruptions)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : I request and appeal to my AIADMK friends to reply after I finish what I want to say. At 1.45 p.m. the bomb blast took place. It was promptly briefed by the Press people and the Government officials to the Chief Minister. But the Chief Minister did not understand the gravity of the incident. She was simply interested in the campaign for the elections and went away. Only after our PM sent the hon. Minister of State for Home Shri Rajesh Pilot that she came back.

SHRI A. ASOKARAJ (Perambalur) : I am seriously objecting to this, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing you.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : This is the offshoot of the hatred and venom preached by the BJP. This is nothing short of their own making. It is because of the BJP preaching hatred and violence... (Interruptions)... that this incident took place in Calcutta. This RDX culture is now spreading in Tamil Nadu also. I, therefore, appeal all my brothers not to resort to preaching violence and hatred. Please come to the path of peace. It took away the lives of eleven persons in my constituency... (Interruptions)... I caution our BJP friends about what is happening in Bosnia. Let them think about it. I caution our BJP friends to take lessons from Bosnia and Serbia where Christians and Muslims are fighting. Let us not divide our society on the basis of religion.

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have done it now.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : I do not object to the enquiry by CBI. But at the same time I want to inform the Central Government that since...

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : I do not have any objection for investigation by the CBI. But at the same time, I want to know why the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu wants to pass on the baby to the Central Government. Is she admitting that her Government is incapable of conducting the enquiry? (Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now. If you do not sit down, it is not going on record now.

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : They are alleging anti-national activities to us, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : It does not look nice to talk to each other like this.

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN : Mr. Speaker Sir, the unfortunate tragic bomb blast which occurred the day before yesterday at Madras killed eleven people and injured several persons. It was a powerful blast which caused extensive damage to the building also. I submit that it is an act of anti-nationals and it is highly condemnable. At this stage we cannot say whether RDX was used or not. As soon as hearing about the blast the State Police rushed to the spot with bomb disposal squad.

They recovered all bodies and the injured were sent to the hospital immediately. The Chief Minister has ordered the Crime Branch (CID) to take up the investigation immediately. She has taken all the steps to ensure peace in Tamilnadu and that law and order in Tamilnadu is well-maintained.

First, she was under the impression that the incident was a minor one. But, on reaching D'ndigul, she understood the severity of the incident. So, she rushed to the spot and met the injured also. She also announced ex-gratia amount of Rs. one lakh to each of the bereaved family. (Interruptions). She has taken all the steps. Though the State Police is well-known for its efficiency, this investigation should be entrusted to the CBI because this blast has inter-State ramifications. It may be the continuation of the Bombay and the Calcutta blasts. It has links with the March explosion. So, it is proper to... (Interruptions) We are doing. We have immediately ordered investigations. We have done everything (Interruptions)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : You are incapable of doing that. So, you want to pass it on to the Central Government. You have totally failed. (Interruptions)

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN : We are capable. (*Interruptions*) This kind of a blast occurred because of the Government's failure to take proper action in the Bombay blast. They have not arrested the culprits; the important culprits are allowed to escape from India. They have not taken stringent action against the real culprits. That is why, these kinds of blasts occurred in other parts of the country. So the action of the Government of India is condemnable. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : Sir, what is it that he is saying? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN : Yes. You have not taken proper action in March. You have allowed them to escape. (*Interruptions*). The main culprits are allowed to escape from India. That is the reason that this kind of a blast occurred. (*Interruptions*) So, I condemn this action. The CBI should take up the investigation immediately (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, I will take only one minute.

MR. SPEAKER : Why is it necessary for you? No. It is not necessary. There are other issues; I must take them up. You are not coming from Tamilnadu. Please sit down. It is not necessary. There are other issues.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I will take only two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : Why is it necessary?

SHRI E. AHAMED : I may be permitted to speak for only two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : Why? You do not know anything. You do not have the personal information. It will not go on record. Please sit down now.

SHRI E. AHAMED : **(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune) : Sir, you have not allowed him to speak. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now; Mr. Ahamed, I cannot compete with you. Please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ahamed, please sit down now, Shri Advani may speak. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : (Gandhinagar) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, day before yesterday a tragic incident took place in Madras and when a Congress Member from Tamilnadu was participating in the discussion I felt very sorry to see that instead of joining others in condemning the incident, he was using this incident for attacking the State Government and the RSS. But this will not solve the problem. I think that the prevailing situation in the country is favourable to such anti-social elements and they have spread all over the country. They are convinced that they can easily escape after committing a crime in such a vulnerable situation. Yesterday, I went there and met the Chief Minister, Governor, the Chief Secretary and also the police officers. In the prevailing circumstances, it is not possible to ascertain whether RDX was used or not. However the explosion was very severe. If at all guilotine sticks were used, it is surprising that two floors of the office building were demolished. Out of the 11 persons died in the incident, the two persons could not be identified. I saw the body of one person in the hospital whose lower part had blown off and the upper part was left. His photo has also been published in the newspapers so his relatives may identify him. I would like to submit that since I feel that the incident is related not to Tamil Nadu and RSS alone, therefore, at least those who have been the victims of terrorism at one time or the other, should not speak like this. Just now Shri Anbarasu was speaking. The Congress party cannot forget that two former Prime Ministers belonging to their party had fallen victim to this terrorism. Does it mean that they were at fault, and they spread hatred. Some hon. Members levelling allegations against the RSS and saying that the RSS has created an atmosphere that led to the bomb explosion. That is why

I have requested at the very beginning that a CBI inquiry should be ordered into it...

[English]

SHRI ERA ANBARASU : I said 'BJP', not 'RSS' (Interruptions) I said BJP preached hatred and violence. (Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : These allegations will be levelled against all those who become victims of this kind of senseless violence. When even people who have been in your party and who have fallen victims are accused in this manner, what would be your reaction? You realise the sensibilities.

[Translation]

All those 11 persons killed in the incident may not be very famous as far as Bharatiya Janata Party or other political parties are concerned but...

[English]

They have been dedicated workers of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

[Translation]

All of them led a dedicated life and much more can be said about their life story as to how they dedicated all their lives in the service of the country. I met their family members and felt their pain and agony. In such a situation if allegations are made against them or any propaganda is made against them, it would give rise to resentment and agitation. The Government should realise this fact.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I proposed for the CBI inquiry into it, I was aware that it was not possible without concurrence of the State Government. When I met the Chief Minister Jayalalitha the first thing I said to her was that I could not say anything about its ramifications. In reference to Madan' Baba she said that she was aware of the speech delivered by him. I hope that an action would be taken in this regard. I do not want to go into the exact wording or language of the speech but there was a reference of both the RSS and Kanchhi Math. Therefore, I would like the Government to take action in this

regard. At the same time adequate security arrangement should be made in the 'Kanchhi Math'. Because if similar accident takes place there, the consequences will be serious. When asked about the CBI inquiry, she pointed out that though the concerned department of the State Government was quite efficient and could do the entrusted work however, it might have ramifications outside Tamil Nadu and therefore, she was also in favour of it. She also told that when the hon. Minister of Home Affairs went there, she discussed the matter with him but he did not make any commitment, because he was not in a position to do so. CBI is not under him and the Government will have to take a decision in this regard.

I would also like to submit that so long as such signals are not given to such elements all over the country.

[English]

That crime of this nature does not pay and they are solitarily punished for this.

[Translation]

So long as the Government does not give such signal, the prevailing tendency cannot be checked I would like to say that there is great resentment all over the country because the Government has not taken any appropriate action with regard to the Bombay and Calcutta bomb blasts so far. Last week during the discussion on no Confidence Motion, our colleague Shri Jaswant Singh raised this matter but the hon. Prime Minister did not feel it necessary to give even a single word reply to it. The incident of bomb blasts in Bombay occurred in March in which hundreds of people were killed. At that time the Government had promised to apprehend the culprits and punish them. But till now no culprit has been apprehended and punished by the Government. I do feel that failure of the Government in dealing with the incidents of Bombay and Calcutta give encouragement to such happenings that has occurred in Madras. I do not know as to who are those elements but they do get encouragement. Therefore, the first and foremost thing is that

unless the culprits and the politicians, who have links with them, in the Bombay and Calcutta bomb blasts are punished, the process would not stop, rather it would continue and may lead to disastrous consequences.

The hon. Prime Minister has referred to lawlessness and we all of us are witnessing it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would conclude after making my submission about bomb blast. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra alleged Pakistan's involvement in it, however, no evidence or other facts were given to the Parliament in this regard. Today I would like to submit that Pakistan has been interfering in the matters of Kashmir and Punjab and it has also been suspected to be involved in the Bombay bomb explosions. So much so that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the Chief Minister of the State have made this allegation publically. I would like the Government to take the House in confidence and issue white paper on the involvement of Pakistan in spreading terrorism and violence in India during last few years. It would make the factual position clear to the people and the House and it would strengthen our position in the world. With these words I conclude.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Such an important issue is being raised here and the hon. Home Minister should have known that this question will be raised here. Shri Pilot had visited Madras but even then he is not present in the House. Even Shri Chavan is not here. Who is going to reply on behalf of the Government ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA-

CHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, I will convey the feelings of the honourable House and honourable Members to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, I am sure that the statement would be forthcoming from them on this matter.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : When ? (Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : As soon as we get sufficient material in our hand, we will come forward and inform the House. We will certainly share the information with the House... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Such a serious incident has happened. When the statement is going to be issued ?

MAJ. GENERAL (Retd.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask them at what time they are going to make the statement?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Look, if you feel happy in speaking, then you can continue to do so.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow you to talk in this way. Please sit down. Mr. Minister, the statement has to be made today itself. Please get the information and ask Minister to make the statement.

SHRI D. VENNKATESWARA RAO (Bapa'la) : Mr. Speaker Sir, on 7th August, a murder took place in Hyderabad in the very heart of the city during a marriage function. The murdered person was not an ordinary man. He was a sitting MLA and he was a former Minister too.

His name was Shri Shiva Reddy. He was an elected MLA for three terms. He was the district head of the Telugu Desam Party in Cuddapah District.

Sir, this man was attacked several times. He was first attacked on 8-5-1991 at Jammalamadugu in front of the revenue office. He was again attacked with bombs in 1992 in front of a police station. He pleaded several times with the State Government that he should be given security. But the Government security was withdrawn on 13-7-1992. Later on, he went to the court on 9 December 1992 seeking additional security. The court also ordered the Government to give him additional security. He made several representations to the State Government to implement the court orders. In spite of all this, the Government did not give him any security. On Friday, the 6th of August, this matter came up for discussion in the Assembly and he pleaded once again that the Government should provide him additional security. But the Home Minister of the State Government refused to give him any additional security. Then all the Opposition parties in the State Assembly demanded that he should be given additional security stating that while Sarpanchs and even those who are below the rank of Sarpanch are given security if they happen to belong to the ruling party, it is refused to opposition party members, even if they happen to be MLAs. This representation was made by all the opposition parties in the Assembly. Finally, the Speaker gave an order from the chair that he should be given additional security.

But immediately, within 24 hours after this incident in the Assembly, Mr. Reddy was killed brutally in the very heart of the city in broad daylight at 12 noon on 7th of August. The Home Minister of the State is also from that district. Before

implementing the order of the Speaker, he sent a message to the culprits to advance their murder plan. So, the murderers, resorted to this ghastly attack in front of thousands of people. This happened with the connivance of the State Government. The State Government has not reacted in any way till now... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. G. REDDY (Chittoor) : Sir, he is misleading the House. The murdered MLA was provided security. He was given two gunmen by the State Government and he had also kept his own private gunmen. But on that day, when he left for the Galyanamandapam, he asked his gunmen to stay back at the MLA quarters and attended the marriage alone, without any security. Had he taken his security personnel along with him, this unfortunate incident would not have occurred. The hon. Member is misleading the House. Moreover, the murdered person was also involved in several criminal cases, which are still pending in High Court and other courts. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Sir, another MLA, Shri Venkata Rao and a former Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Shri Suryanaravana Raju were also injured in this brutal attack. This is nothing but a collusion of State Government with the killers. I would say that the Government is not discharging its duty properly.

We demand that the Home Minister should be brought to book for this criminal assault and the State Government should be dismissed. We also want that a sitting High Court Judge should inquire into this matter and take appropriate action.

MR. SPEAKER : You have made all the points. Take your seat. I think the Government will make a Statement today or tomorrow on this also.

(*Interruptions*)