

Statement by Minister

16.40 hrs.

(i) *Fatal mob attack on Shri P. Siva Reddy, Telugu Desam Party, M.L.A.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : As per the information received from the State Government, Shri P. Siva Reddy, Telugu Desam (TDP) MLA from Jammalamadugu was attending the Monsoon Session of the A.P. Legislative Assembly. He was provided with two State Police guards. He also had two private gunmen who accompanied him.

On 7-8-1993 at about 9.00 A.M. Shri P. Siva Reddy, MLA (TDP) alongwith the official gunmen Shri K. Nathaneil, Head Constable-477 and two more private gunmen visited the house of Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, M.L.A. (TDP) and from there he visited the house of Shri D. Venkateswara Rao, MP (TDP) at Banzara Hills, at 10.30 A.M. At 11.40 AM, Shri P. Siva Reddy asked Shri K Nathaneil and his two private gunmen to go back to his quarter, No. 135, New MLA Quarters, and he proceeded with Shri Kala Venkata Rao, M.L.A. (TDP) in a maruti car to attend a marriage at Shri Satya Sai Kalayana Mandapam, Srinagar Colony, without taking any securitymen with him. The gunman of Shri Rao, was also not with him. Around 12.00 noon, when he was coming out of the marriage hall and getting into the maruti car, some unidentified persons hurled bombs at Shri P. Siva Reddy, who died on the spot. Shri Rao, and Shri A. Suryanarayana Raju, former Deputy Speaker, A.P. Legislative Assembly, were also injured in the bomb attack and they were admitted in Hospital and they are progressing. Two

culprits have been apprehended so far. The Police have registered a case, under relevant legal provisions, which has been entrusted to the State CID for investigation.

On the afternoon of 8th August, 1993, Shri P. Siva Reddy's body was buried in his native village in Gundlakyunta near Jammalamadugu with police honours in the presence of senior officials. The Bandh call given by T.D.A. on the August, 1993, passed off peacefully but for a few minor incidents.

16.47 hrs.

(ii) *Bomb explosion at the R.S.S. headquarters in Madras on 8th August 1993.*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : As per the information received from the State Government, an explosion occurred in the office of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh at No. 1 and 2, M. V. Naidu Street, Chetpet, Madras, on 8-8-93 at 13.45 hours. This explosion ripped through the vital columns of the building premises and brought down the ceiling of the first and second floor halls. Caretaker of the RSS office and some members of the organisation, who were then in the premises, bore the burnt of the explosion.

On receipt of information, the Commissioner of Police and his personnel, alongwith Fire Brigade personnel, rushed to the blast site and started relief operations. They discovered 16 persons from the shattered building. Of them 11 persons were declared dead. The bodies of 10 persons have been identified and enquiries are being made to identify the remaining deadbody. Of the nine injured persons, 5 were treated as in patients and 4 as out-patients.

On a complaint from Thiru Srinivasan, Organiser, Madras District Hindu Munnani, a criminal case in F-5 Chetpet Police Station Crime No 1137/93, u/s 120-B, 302, 326, 153-A IPC, section 9(b) (1) (a) (b) of Indian Explosives Act, 1884 and Section 3 and 4 of Explosive Substances Act, 108 has been registered. The State Crime Branch, C.I.D., has taken up the investigation of the case. Sniffer dogs have been used to find out the cause of the explosion. Central Govt. Forensic experts have reached the State, to provide expert evaluation.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1 lakh each to the families of those who were killed and Rs. 10,000/- to those who were injured in the blast.

The State Government has alerted the district administration to take immediate steps to maintain law and order and communal harmony. It has instructed the Administrative and Police officers to provide full bandobust to all religious and other institutions including Government buildings and to intensify patrolling to ensure that no untoward incident takes place.

I would like to inform the House that in the first week of July 1993, I along with senior officers of Ministry of Home Affairs had visited the State and held discussions with the Chief Minister and State Govt. Officials on the security scenario and urged the State Govt. to take adequate precautionary measures to ensure against acts of militancy taking place.

Along with the Official of my Ministry, I visited the site of the explosion, at Madras, on 9th August 1993 and held discussions with the Chief Minister and other State Govt. Officials. The Chief Minister had also visited the site of the explosion.

During discussions the State Govt. Officials showed me a small container with some used explosive, copper wire and transformer which were recovered from the site. The explosion did not appear to have been caused by use of RDX explosive. However, explosive experts would be able to determine the nature of the explosion.

On my enquiring about the security arrangements in the building, the State Govt. officials informed that it was guarded by the State Police personnel till the ban on RSS was in force. I was told that after the revocation of the ban, the RSS office bearers did not allow the State Police personnel to guard the premises and stated that their own volunteers will guard the building.

We have offered the State Government all assistance to enable expeditious investigation of the case and apprehension of the culprits. The Chief Minister, during discussions, suggested that the case may be investigated by the CBI. Considering the nature of the explosion, it is felt that the State Police can efficiently investigate the case. However, if the preliminary investigations by the State Govt. reveal wider ramifications, calling for a CBI probe, we shall review the matter.

SHRI LAL K, ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Chairman, I want to draw the attention to the last paragraph of his statement and I regard it as ironical that while in the case of Maharashtra the Maharashtra Government was saying that their police was very efficient and the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs wrote to the Prime Minister urging him that there should be a CBI inquiry into the bomb blast in Bombay, here in this case, the State Government itself is requesting the Central Government to hold an inquiry by the CBI and the Minister of State of Home Affairs is certifying that

the local Government is very efficient ! He says, "It is felt that the State Police can efficiently investigate the case." Of course, he has indicated that the Government is open to review.

What I would like to emphasise is that it would be wrong to view these incidents piecemeal. It would be right to take a comprehensive view of the security climate in the country and all these elements who are indulging in Bombay blasts of this kind have come to be convinced that in the present set-up they could do anything and get away with it. Is it not true that in respect of the bomb blasts which took place in March, till now not even a charge-sheet has been filed, no one has been booked, and no one has been punished for it ? Is it not a contributory factor to incidents of this kind ? Whether there is a nexus or not can be established only after a thorough investigation and here is a case where the Chief Minister herself suspects—it may not be established after a preliminary inquiry that there may be ramifications outside Tamil Nadu, may be, and who knows even outside the country and therefore it would be proper if the CBI undertakes an inquiry. Why should there be a hesitation in this matter, particularly, from a Minister who has been insisting that there should be a CBI inquiry in respect of Maharashtra ?

And secondly, I do not know if the hon. Minister in his talks yesterday was apprised of the fact that a person by name Palani Baba had made a public speech some time back that the RSS headquarters and the Kanchi Mutt should be blown up. Is he aware of it and if so, has he advised the State Government to do anything in that regard ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am really surprised to hear the statement of my senior friend, senior

parliamentarian, Shri Advani, which is totally giving an impression that the total security scenario is so bad that everybody can take the people for a ride. He had seen the security scenario on 25th Feb. I need not go into the details. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Your valour is seen there only.

[*English*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Let me explain... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Please stop for a minute. You made a mention of the valour of your party. You can show your valour on a political party which is committed to peaceful means and not in Bombay, Madras or Srinagar. You show your valour here.

[*English*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Shri Advani, you have spoken. Give me a chance to speak... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : You have started on a wrong note.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir, he is talking of the security scenario.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Let him show his security scenario in Kashmir, Bombay and Madras. He thinks that he displayed his great valour on 25th... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, I am just telling that the security scenario in the country is not that the people in this country can be taken for a ride. Sir.

the situation in Kashmir is also improving. Because of you, the situation in Kashmir is going bad. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) : They are responsible for Kashmir. Situation in Kashmir is worsening by his visits to that area.

[*English*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I charge, because of the BJP, the situation in Kashmir is going bad; because of your slogans and statements, the situation in Kashmir is going bad.

Now, let us talk about the facts... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Kashmir remained closed for seven days. For the whole last week it was closed and they are showing us the security scenario in Delhi... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Why do you jump on Kashmir? What have you been saying in Doda? (*Interruptions*) Mr. Chairman, Sir. I have just given an explanation to what Shri Advani has said that everybody can take the law in their hands. This is not possible under this Government. The security scenario is sound. The situation is under the control of the Government. When the State police was saying that they would guard the house and the State Government officers informed the Chief Minister that the police was not allowed to enter the house; then, how can you ask them now how this bomb blast had taken place? One has to bear it out.

The second point that he made is on CBI. About Bombay scenario and Bombay blast, I had gone there personally and seen what had taken place; what was the scenario; how did it take place; and what were the complications. But it was totally different. It cannot be compared with the scenario at Madras. I had gone there personally and seen Shri Advani was also there. (*Interruptions*)

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SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN (Amroha) : Do you want the Bombay things to be repeated in Madras? Will you open your eyes then only? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I have said in my statement that if the State Government feels or the State Government investigation reflects wider ramifications, then we have an open mind. But this also should not be viewed separately. I have told her that personally. When I talked to her, she agreed with me on these lines. She had shown me a component of the exploded bomb, which she had received, and mentioned that it did not link with RDX. I had told her that we would give all the help that she needed. She wanted explosive experts. We had flown them from Delhi. We will give her all help. It is much easier for the State Government to investigate about the individual, to whom Shri Advani has referred to. This was mentioned to me in the RSS headquarters by some gentleman there. Immediately I reported this to the Chief Minister. I am told that he has been arrested today. I have been telling the Chief Ministers that if anybody says 'kick the Muslims out', put him behind the bars. And so also, if anybody says 'kick the Hindus out', put him behind the bars. The State Government has to do this. You have got to put 'hem behind the bars. And we are firm that no anti-national person will be permitted in this land to speak anti-national language.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA (Madras Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly give me one minute. This had happened in my constituency. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The rules do not permit. We are here to follow the rules.

(*Interruptions*)

17.00 hrs.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : Only one minute, Sir... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : No one minute. The rule does not permit that.

Now, the hon. Minister of Finance.