

12.05 hrs.

REGADING INCIDENT OF CASTE VIOLENCE IN KOLAR DISTRICT (KARNATAKA) ON THE 11TH MARCH, 2000

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, as per information available with the Central Government, two incidents of violence and counter violence between members of the Reddy community and Scheduled Castes have taken place in village Kambalapalli of Police Station Kencharlahalli in the District of Kolar, Karnataka. The incidents resulted in the stabbing and subsequent death of one Krishna Reddy and burning alive of seven members of the Scheduled Caste community.

The sequence of events reveals that on March 11, around 1930 hours, a group of 15 to 20 persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste community which reportedly included two persons named Anjanappa and Sriramappa, stabbed one Krishna Reddy who died on the spot. In retaliation a group of 150-200 persons belonging to the Reddy community attacked the Colony of the village inhabited by the Scheduled Caste community around 2100 hours and set fire to the house belonging to Sriramappa and another adjoining house. Six persons (four men and two women) died on the spot due to suffocation and burn injuries and one lady succumbed to her injuries later on way to hospital.

The State Police have so far arrested 15 persons in connection with the violence. Additional Police force has also been stationed at the village as well as

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the Special Divisional Headquarters at Chintamani and District Headquarters Kolar. Prohibitory orders have been enforced at Chintamani and Kambalapalli areas since 13.03.2000. Investigations are on and senior police officials are supervising the investigation. Th Superintendent of Police, District Kolar, has since been transferred by the State Government. The state Chief Minister, State Home Minister and other leaders have visited the spot and assured protection to the remaining Scheduled Caste families and arranged relief operations. The Chief Minister has announced institution of a judicial inquiry into the incident. Chief Minister has also announced *ex-gratia* compensation of Rs. 1 lakh each, suitable employment to the next of kin of those killed, rehabilitation of the affected people and assured stringent action against those who were responsible for the heinous crimes.

The situation currently is reported to be tense but under control.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 1600/2000)
