

12.03 hrs.

Title: Regarding recent incident of killings in village Sirsawan, district Moradabad.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, the incident regarding killing of six persons in Village Sirsawan, PS Bhojpur, District Moradabad on the night of 22nd/23rd of July, 2001 had been raised by some hon. Members on the 24th of July. I have had the facts ascertained from the Uttar Pradesh Government.

In the second half of July, there were three incidents of violence in Western Uttar Pradesh with the same modus operandi. In all the three cases, the attack was above the neck, on the head and face; the attack was made when the members of the families were sleeping; no distinction was made between men, women and children; metal rods and lathis were used in the attack and causing deaths was as important to the perpetrators as loot. Officers tell me that this is the modus operandi of certain tribes which had been notified earlier during the British period as "criminal tribes".

Of the three incidents, the one at Sirsawan was the worst. In this incident, six persons died – three on the spot, one while being taken to hospital and two during treatment. Thirteen persons were injured. The killed and the injured were living in two houses on the outskirts of the village. One house was occupied by Anwar, S/o Ali Muhammad and his brother Bhure alongwith their family, while the other house was occupied by Muhammad Hanif, his brother Nabi Muhammad and family. The modus operandi was the same as described above – persons were attacked on the head and face by lathis and metal rods while they were sleeping.

All investigations to date point to the involvement of members of the erstwhile criminal tribes.

* Also placed in Library. See no. LT. 3874/2001

Another similar incident occurred in Meerut District, where on the night of 17th/18th of July, three members of the family of Shri Rishipal were killed while they were sleeping in their house on the outskirts of Kasba Mawana in Meerut District. Shri Rishipal, his wife, son and daughter were beaten on the neck, head and face by lathis and metal rods.

And in the third such incident, on the night of 26th/27th of July in Lakhimpur Kheri, an attack was made in which three persons were killed and four persons were injured in identical fashion while they were sleeping in the house of Shri Mahesh Agarwal.

In Sirsawan, none of the villagers is reported to have heard any commotion or seen any of the assailants. One Sub-Inspector of Police, who was on night duty reached the place of occurrence promptly and dispatched the injured to hospital. On information, senior police officers also reached the spot at once. Combing operations were carried out. The Dog Squad was deployed as also the Field Unit. As investigations clearly indicated this to be the handiwork of members of certain tribes notified earlier as 'criminal tribes', all the districts where such tribes are to be found have been alerted. I must inform the House that these gangs are highly mobile and they move far across the countryside in order to commit crimes, but concerted efforts to catch the perpetrators are on. A Special Investigation Team has been constituted with two officers of the rank of Additional Superintendents of Police and a number of other police officers.

Armed forces have been deployed in the village. The Circle Officer is also camping there. Arrangements have been made for the medical treatment of the injured. The State Government has given an assistance of Rs. 1.25 lakh for the treatment. A reward of Rs. 25,000 has been announced by the IG, Bareilly Zone to any person giving clues which may lead to the arrest of culprits. We shall be monitoring the action being taken.