

13.26 hrs.

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

RE : INCIDENT OF RAPE AND KILLING

OF A GIRL IN JHABUA DISTRICT OF MADHYA PRADESH

Title : Regarding incident of rape and killing of a girl in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the 30th January 2004, hon. Members of the Lok Sabha raised an issue relating to the incident of rape and killing of a girl in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh. I had assured that I would make inquiries from the State Government and come to the House in that regard.

The facts of the case as reported by the Government of Madhya Pradesh are that on 11.1.2004, the dead body of one Hindu girl aged about 10-11 years who was allegedly raped and killed in the bathroom behind a missionary school in Jhabua city was recovered. In connection with the incident, a case under sections 376 and 302 IPC was registered on 11.1.2004 night against unknown accused in Police Station of Jhabua and investigation was taken up. The *post mortem* of the dead body was conducted on 12.1.2004. On the basis of evidence collected in the course of investigation, the accused, a Hindu, aged about 32 years was arrested on 15.1.2004. The articles seized during investigation have been sent for DNA examination to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata and Regional Forensic Science Laboratory, Indore.

As this unfortunate incident was alleged to have taken place in the premises of a missionary school, there was some tension between the two communities, which led to clashes in some parts of the Jhabua District. There was an incident of pelting of stones on a vehicle carrying a priest and two nuns in Antervelia, which is a sub-divisional headquarter, on 13.1.2004. The situation was brought under control by the police and criminal cases were registered in this regard in Kalyanpura Police Station and investigations started.

Another incident took place on 14.1.2004 when some persons tried to stage a *dharna* in front of the missionary school at Jhabua. There was pelting of stones on the school and on the police vehicles. The police used force to disperse the crowd and control the situation. In connection with this incident also, some criminal cases have been registered in Police Station, Jhabua.

To control the situation, the district authorities promulgated prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Cr.P.C. Additional companies of Special Armed Forces and Rapid Action Force were deployed to assist the local police in controlling the situation. With a view to maintain law and order and communal harmony in the district, precautionary measures have been taken. The situation today is fully under control.

I have also gathered that the Chief Minister of the State visited the place on the 31st or sometime during this period. According to our friend, Shri Atkinson, he has spoken to the Bishop of the place who has also met the Chief Minister. He said that the situation is normal today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I call the name of the next speaker, let us dispose of Item Nos. 20 and 27.