

**Title:** Regarding Incident involving death of members of the Scheduled Caste in two districts of Uttar Pradesh.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, yesterday, hon. MP Kumari Mayawati and some other MPs had raised the issue of atrocities on Dalits in Uttar Pradesh. I had assured the House that I shall make enquiries and report to the House.

As per the information available with the Central Government received from the Uttar Pradesh State Government, four members of the Scheduled Caste were killed on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2000 at village Bagiapur. Rustam Lal (S/o Pukha) and Rakesh Kumar (S/o Rustam Lal) were shot dead by Ram Nath Singh and his two sons Ankit Kumar Singh alias Raju and his colleague. Muttu Lal (S/o Bikhari) died on his way to the hospital. Vijay Pal (S/o Gibba) and Shri Pal (S/o Pukha) were injured. Vijay Pal later succumbed to his injuries at the District Hospital.

The background of the incident is that Ram Nath Singh, a Constable at Faizabad, had developed animosity towards the deceased as his daughter, Poonam, was in love with Gajraj, the younger son of deceased Rustam, for quite some time. Ram Nath Singh had scheduled his daughter's marriage for April 16, 2000 but three or four days before the Holi festival she eloped with Gajraj. Due to the animus arising out of the elopement, Ram Nath Singh, his two sons and a colleague of his killed four persons belonging to Scheduled Caste. The State Police has arrested Ram Nath Singh, his son, Pradeep Kumar, Manish alias Chhutkey and Ankit Kumar Singh. Constable Ram Nath Singh has been placed under suspension on 8.5.2000. FIR has been registered against the accused u/s 452, 302, 307, 504 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code 1860 as also under Section 3(2)(5) of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Act. Investigation is in progress. The District Magistrate of Hardoi has suspended the arms license issued to Ram Nath Singh in District Gonda. The post-mortem of the four persons killed was performed on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2000 and their cremation took place on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2000.

The State Government has granted financial assistance of Rs.50,000/- to Shri Pal who was seriously injured. A cheque of Rs.25,000/- has been disbursed. He has been taken to the Balrampur Hospital, Lucknow, for medical treatment.

The State Government has announced a compensation of Rs.2 lakh each to the next of kin of those who have been killed. The State Government has ordered a detailed inquiry into the incident by the Divisional Commissioner of Lucknow and the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Lucknow Range, who have visited the spot.

In a separate but unrelated incident on the intervening night of May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup>, four dead bodies of persons belonging to the Jatav Community, namely, (i) Satyavir S/o Karam Singh, (ii) Vijay Singh and (iii) Jaipal, both sons of Hari Singh and (iv) Sugriv S/O Raghuvanshi were found lying in the agricultural field of one Pratap Singh at village Basai, PS-Tundla, District Ferozabad.

The fifth person, Shri Santosh Kumar, was injured but was unconscious. According to the statement made by the Investigating Officer, they were stabbed by some people when they were asked to hand over whatever money they had on their person while returning to their village after working in the cold storage. Shri Santosh Kumar was also attacked but he has survived.

On the morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> May, some villagers informed the two constables who were on duty on the main Tundla-Faizabad National Highway that some dead bodies have been found in village Basai. Thereafter, the police reached the spot. However, a huge crowd of villagers collected and did not allow the bodies to be lifted for their cremation. Anti-social elements pelted stones at the police and fired from the country-made firearms in which a driver of a bus was injured. The villagers also blocked the National Highway the whole day and gutted a police jeep and burnt four buses of the UP State road Transport Corporation. The police had ultimately to resort to firing in which Ram Prakash, a milk vendor belonging to the Jat community, was killed.

The injured had to be admitted in the hospital and the UP Government has handed over the case of murder of these four persons for investigation to the CID. The Government of UP has also ordered an inquiry by the Member, Board of Revenue, into the incidents of crowd gathering, blockade of the National Highway, arson by the mob and the police firing.

The next of the kin of the deceased have been paid Rs.2 lakhs each as compensation. The Divisional Commissioner, the DIG Agra Range, the DM and the SP of Faizabad District have been transferred. The SHO and the SI of Police Station-Tundla have been attached to the Police Lines. According to the post-mortem report, the murder of these four persons is reported to have taken place during midnight of 1<sup>st</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2000.

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...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, statement to be made by Shri Jaswant Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's statement.

(Interruptions) \*

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14.37 hrs.