

**17.49 hrs.**

**Title: Regarding Terrorist attack on Bus Passengers and Army Camp at Kaluchak, Jammu District.**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, it is my sad duty to inform the House that at about 6.15 a.m., today morning, a serious terrorist incident occurred near Kaluchak in Jammu District on Pathankot-Jammu National Highway. Three terrorists in army-type uniform boarded a Himachal Roadways bus at Vijaypur between Pathankot and Jammu. As soon as the bus reached Kaluchak Bridge, the terrorists started shooting indiscriminately at passengers. They then de-boarded the bus and threw a grenade towards the bus. They then ran towards the Army Camp, Kaluchak. The three terrorists entered the family lines of the Army Camp where they continued firing and throwing grenades indiscriminately, killing and injuring some Army personnel and members of their families.

While all the three terrorists were killed during the encounter as per latest reports, the following is the number of casualties in the incident. Three Army personnel and eight family members of Army personnel and 19 other civilians were killed.

Out of the total 30 persons killed, 11 were women and ten were children.

Forty-seven injured persons are being treated in the military hospital and one person has been shifted to the Jammu medical college hospital.

Besides senior Army, Civilian officials from Jammu, the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister of State for Home, Jammu and Kashmir and the DGP, Jammu and Kashmir have visited the site of the incident and reviewed the situation. They also met the injured in the hospitals.

\* Also placed in Library. See No. LT 5710-A/2002

Abu Usama, said to be a spokesman of Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) based in PoK, has telephonically claimed to a Srinagar news agency that the incident was the handiwork of the new outfit Al-Man-Suren floated by the LeT. The Jamait-ul-Mujahideen (JuM) has also claimed responsibility for the incident. The incident appears to have been timed to demonstrate to the world that despite the "global coalition against terrorism", the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir will continue to be active. It is not a coincidence that the incident has occurred at a time when a senior US State Department official is visiting our country.

It may be reiterated that the Government remains committed to taking all steps to control militancy within Jammu and Kashmir. The Security Forces have been conducting intelligence based operations against the terrorists as a result of which during the first four months of this calendar year 601 terrorists, of whom 190 are foreign mercenaries, have been killed by the Security Forces.

In view of the gravity of the incident, Shri I.D. Swami, Minister of State for Home Affairs and Special Secretary for Jammu and Kashmir, Shri A.K. Bhandari are leaving for Jammu now.

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