

Title : Statement regarding serial bomb blasts in Delhi on 29.10.2005.

(iv) Serial bomb blasts in Delhi on 29.10.2005

* THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the serial bomb blasts in Delhi on 29th October, 2005.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2869/2005.

I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members of this House that three bomb explosions took place in Delhi on 29.10.2005 at Paharganj, Sarojini Nagar Market and Kalkaji. The first explosion took place in the Main Bazar of Paharganj at around 1730 hours. There was heavy rush in the market at the time of explosion as a result of which 16 persons died and 108 were injured. The second explosion took place at the bus stand near Okhla Bus Depot. One passenger travelling in a Mudrika bus plying on the outer ring road informed the Conductor about a bag left behind by some other passenger. Suspecting that the bag contained a bomb, the Driver and Conductor threw it away. As soon as the bag was thrown, there was explosion, which resulted in injuries to 12 persons. The driver of the bus was seriously injured. The third explosion took place at around 1800 hours near a chat shop in the main Sarojini Nagar Market. The owner of the shop was informed about a bag left there by somebody. As soon as he approached the bag, explosion took place, causing blast of the gas cylinders and fire in the clothes kept in the hawker's shops opposite the chat shop. 43 persons were killed and 104 injured in the explosion.

2. Seven more persons have died subsequently thus taking the death toll to 66.

3. Delhi Police has deployed a team of over 300 officers and men led by Joint Commissioner of Police, Special Cell, to investigate these blasts. Experts of National Security Guards, who were called to the scene of the crime, found high explosives at all the three locations in varying quantities. It is suspected that RDX was used in the explosions. Delhi Police has announced a reward of Rs. 1 lakh for giving clue of the suspects. During the investigation of the case, it is revealed that the conspiracy for the bomb explosions in Delhi was hatched by a foreign-based militant organisation. Delhi Police has so far arrested three persons, namely, Tariq Ahmed Dar, a resident of Srinagar, who was arrested on 10.11.2005 and Md. Hussain Fazil, a resident of Srinagar and one Rafique who were arrested on

22.11.2005. The interrogation of Tariq Ahmed Dar has revealed that he was the main coordinator and facilitator of these blasts. Further investigation is in progress.

4. Immediately after the blasts, intensive efforts were made by the police with the help of the general public to very quickly restore their confidence and bring in normalcy. Mass media was used extensively for general sensitization of the public and for creating a sense of confidence. The shops were opened in most of the areas the very next day. Diwali, Id and Chhath festivals, which drew huge crowds, were indicative of the restored public confidence. Guru Parab procession on 15th November, was a major success as it has a crowd of over 50,000. Security arrangements for the Trade Fair are also being handled in a very effective manner.

5. The Delhi Police has also taken various steps to strengthen security in the capital. Special checking at the entry points of markets is being done. Barricades have been put up at entry points and vehicles are allowed to enter after checking with the help of inverted mirror. Hand held metal detectors are used for checking. Abandoned vehicles are checked and if no claimant is found they are removed.

6. Managers and staff of all the hotels/guest houses have been briefed to keep details regarding identity of guests and their luggage properly. They have also been asked to provide full details of guests staying in their hotels/guest houses. They have been briefed to note down the registration number of vehicles by which guests arrived at the hotel. All the guest house owners have been requested to install CCTVs at the entrance of the hotels at the earliest.

7. Several meetings have been organized with the associations of traders as well as resident welfare bodies. Nearly 900 such meetings have been held so far. They are sensitized about the threats from the terrorist outfits.

8. Every shop in market is being visited by the beat staff. Vendors are briefed to be extra vigilant and careful. Audio cassettes prepared by district police regarding security measures are being played in different markets. Taxi stand owners/parking attendants are being briefed regularly about unattended vehicles. They are also being briefed to check vehicles at the entry point to the extent possible.

9. Security of Metro Rail network is being maintained through the deployment of police personnel as well as three companies of CISF men. Airport's security has also been tightened by deploying PCR vans on all peripheral roads.

10. The Central Government has decided to grant ex-gratia relief of Rs. 2 lakh in each case of death of an adult and Rs. 1 lakh in each case of death of a minor. The Government of NCT of Delhi has also decided to grant ex-gratia payment at the same rate to the next of kin of those who were killed. In addition, the Government of NCT of Delhi has also decided to give Rs. 1 lakh in case of permanent incapacitation; Rs. 50,000/- in case of serious injury; Rs. 5,000 in case of minor injury; and compensation at the rate of 50% of the loss in respect of commercial property subject to the maximum of Rs. 50,000/-

11. The Government of NCT of Delhi has also approved special rewards to the driver and the conductor of the DTC bus whose presence of mind and timely action saved many lives. These include cash reward of Rs. 2 lakh each to the driver and the conductor; regular job for the driver in DTC; and promotion to the conductor.

12.33 hrs.