

The Customs (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2011

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962, as passed by Lok Sabha,
be taken into consideration.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the
Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister to make the Statement.

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STATEMENT BY MINISTER

On Bomb blast near Delhi High Court

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir,
it is with profound sorrow and regret that I inform the House of a bomb blast that took place this
morning in Delhi.

At about 10.14 a.m., a high intensity blast occurred between gate No. 4 and gate No.5 of
the Delhi High Court. There is a reception centre between the two gates where passes are
issued. The bomb blast took place just outside the reception centre. It is suspected that the
bomb was placed in a briefcase.

According to last reports, 11 people have died and 59 have been injured. Most of the injured
have been removed to Dr. RML Hospital. Some have been removed to AIIMS and other nearby
hospitals. Some of the injured have suffered serious injuries. About 17 others with minor injuries
are being treated at the dispensary of the High Court.

The scene of the incident was cordoned off immediately. Ambulances reached the scene
and removed the injured within 20 minutes.

A CFSL team is at the place of the incident. Teams from the NIA and NSG are also at the
place of the incident. A post blast investigation team of the Delhi Police is also carrying out
investigations.

I visited the place of the incident at about 1 p.m. I met the Hon'ble Chief Justice and other Hon'ble Judges of the High Court as well as the leaders of the Bar. The briefcase was placed next to a parapet wall that marked the space where visitors gather to collect their passes. The bomb blast has left a crater that points to the high intensity of the blast.

Delhi is a target of terrorist groups. When Parliament is in session and during certain other times of the year, Delhi is placed on high alert. Intelligence agencies constantly share intelligence inputs with Delhi Police. Intelligence pertaining to threats emanating from certain groups was shared with Delhi Police in July, 2011. At this stage, it is not possible to identify the group that caused the bomb blast today.

In the last few years, several measures have been taken to strengthen Delhi Police. Despite the capacity that has been built and despite Delhi Police remaining on high alert, the tragic incident occurred today. The objective of terrorist groups is to strike fear and to destabilize the country. We are clear in our mind that there is no cause that can justify terrorist acts. Government unequivocally condemns the terrorist attack that took place today. The investigation of the case will be entrusted to the NIA, and I am told, the notification was issued a short while ago.

On behalf of the Government, I offer my sincere condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. I offer my sympathies to those who have been injured and assure the House that we will extend the best medical treatment to the injured. At this point of time, I appeal to the House and to the people of the country that we must remain resolute and united. We must not show any vacillation. We shall never be intimidated by terrorist groups. We are determined to track down the perpetrators of this horrific crime and bring them to justice.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I stand here with a deep sense of sorrow and grief for all those who have lost their lives in the barbaric and cruel terrorist attack that took place outside the Delhi High Court today. For both the Home Minister and me, and also for some other Members, this has traditionally been our place of work and, therefore, our sense of sorrow and concern is even higher because of what has happened.

Sir, to the members of the bereaved families, we express our grief and sorrow. And I hope that the Government is taking adequate care to make sure that proper relief in terms of medical attention is being provided to all those who are injured because of this attack.

Sir, I also stand here with a sense of anger. The anger is not really aimed at any one individual or Government or, for that matter, any particular institution; it is at the kind of a helpless situation we are being pushed into. Have we become so vulnerable that terrorist groups can almost strike at will? Therefore, this is an occasion for us to remember what the hon. Home Minister has said just now, that we stay united and we speak in one language. But, at the same

time, we must show our deep concern to the kind of institutions and systems that we have to build to fight this menace and we must show our determination in speaking and acting in one voice against this huge problem that the Indian society today is confronted with.

Sir, this is an occasion today for all of us — and I am responding to the statement that the hon. Home Minister has made — to speak in one voice, unitedly, against this terror and to think in terms of the adequate steps that are required to be taken so that the guilty in these incidents are brought to book. When they are punished, it acts as a deterrent for any future actors in this game. Also, our systems, including our quick response systems and Intelligence machinery need to be further strengthened so that the occurrence of these incidents could be prevented.

Sir, once again, I express my deep sense of sorrow and grief for those who have been injured and those who have lost their lives in this act of terror.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I, on behalf of my Party, I extend deep condolences and grief to the bereaved families and to those who are injured. All of us here stand behind the Government on this occasion unitedly. We would support every move taken by them for the purposes of meeting the present situation where in the terrorist attack has taken place right in the heart of the nation, at Delhi, and that too, at a place where they had carried out a similar act just three months ago. This is all the more reason that we should, at this moment, stand united and stay with the actions being taken, with the request to the Government that so far as the bereaved families and the injured are concerned, adequate compensation — which will be not a compensation for the lives lost, but would provide at least some solace to the bereaved families — should be given to them immediately and the injured should be given all proper facilities. I would like to make a further request to all of us here, that VVIPs should restrain themselves from going to the hospitals where the injured are being treated. We keep visiting hospitals where the injured are being treated, but the doctors and administration taking care of them and everybody, including the security personnel, would get affected by the movements. At this moment we must avoid doing that.

With this, I, on my behalf and on my Party's behalf, convey deep condolences to the bereaved families.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I join the entire House and the entire country in expressing my deep outrage and condemnation at this terrorist blast. I would also like to categorically convey my deep-felt condolences and grief to those who have lost their lives and to those who have suffered. The Home Minister has assured us that they will be taken care of properly and, I hope, the Government will do all that is necessary in that direction. It is absolutely

correct, Sir, that terrorism knows neither a religion, nor a caste nor a region. It is a menace that has to be unitedly overcome and we simply put it as anti-national and something that cannot be tolerated. So, the zero tolerance that we will have for the terrorism has to come into action in such a way that the measures that are taken subsequently will act as a very stern deterrent to any such group. Yes, we have discussed this issue in the past after the 26/11 attack. A new organization was created and the Home Minister has said that that organization has been entrusted to investigate this thing. But whatever else is required, this needs to be strengthened. That is why I, with a sense of anger and anguish, condemn this attack. India cannot afford to give this impression that human life for us is much cheaper than anywhere else in the world. That is something we cannot afford. For that, whatever is required needs to be done. We will fully support the Government's endeavour. I once again join the House and the country in expressing both our condemnation and condolences.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, on behalf of AIADMK, I offer our heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families and sympathies for the injured. We strongly condemn this terrorist act which is barbaric. We appeal to the Government to give adequate and generous compensation to the bereaved families and the best medical treatment to the people who have been injured. We understand that this is not an occasion to score brownie points. We are united in our fight against terrorism.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदय, आज की घटना की मैं घोर निन्दा करता हूँ। मैं अपनी ओर से और अपनी पार्टी, जनता दल यूनाइटेड की ओर से इस घटना की निन्दा करता हूँ। मैं मानता हूँ कि इस तरह की कार्रवाई देश को अस्थिर करने के लिए, देश की एकता और अखण्डता पर चोट पहुंचाने के लिए की जाती है। खास कर, मुम्बई की घटना के बाद गृह मंत्री जी ने और सरकार ने एक नया संगठन बनाया, जिससे यह उम्मीद पैदा हुई कि हमारे देश की जो Intelligence Agency है तथा इस तरह की घटनाओं के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने वाली जो एजेंसी बनाई गई है, वह सक्षम ढंग से इस पर कार्रवाई करेगी। लेकिन, हम लोगों को इस बारे में भी सोचना चाहिए कि हमारे Intelligence Agency में कौन-सी ऐसी कमी रह गई है, कौन-सी ऐसी कमजोरी है, जिसकी वजह से हमारी नजर पहले वहां नहीं जा पाती है, जहां इस तरह का काम हो रहा है।

पहले हमारे देश में जो आतंकवादी घटनाएं होती थीं, तो उनके बारे में हम लोग मान कर चलते थे कि terrorism बाहर से हमारे यहां एक्सपोर्ट हो रहा है, लेकिन पिछले कुछ वर्षों में यह बात सामने आई कि Terrorist गुप्स हमारे समाज के अंदर से पैदा हो रहे हैं। हम लोगों को यह बात देखनी चाहिए कि यह जो development हुआ कि हमारे देश के अंदर से जो terrorist groups पैदा हो रहे हैं, उनके पीछे क्या कारण है और उसको भी दूर करने के बारे में social और political level पर हम लोगों को काम करना चाहिए। इसके साथ-साथ, हमारी intelligence और सरकार की व्यवस्था में जो कमजोरी है, उसको भी दूर करना चाहिए। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि मृतक के जो परिवार हैं, सरकार उनको बढ़िया से compensate करेगी और जो घायल

हैं, उनके इलाज में किसी तरह की कोताही नहीं बरती जाएगी। इसी के साथ मैं इस घटना की पुनः निन्दा करते हुए इस सदन की भावना के साथ अपनी भावना को व्यक्त करता हूँ।

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, my Party joins the entire House to condemn this bomb blast in the strongest possible terms. My Party also expresses profound condolences to the families of those who have been killed and expresses its profound sympathies to those who have been injured. I wish the Government takes adequate measures to compensate these families. Having said that, Sir, I would say that whoever might be behind this bomb blast, their sinister design appears to be to disrupt peace and harmony in the country. At the time when the Parliament is in session, if some forces think that by these barbaric acts of terror, they can weaken India, we should give a strong message; India can never be weakened by such acts of terror. I wish the Government takes adequate steps to identify the culprits and put down this terrorism which has emerged as a menace. I do state my Party's position that our Party will give its full support to the Government, and I hope the entire House gives its support to the Government, to take adequate steps to curb this menace of terrorism.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, on behalf of my Party, the DMK, I convey my heartfelt condolence to the families of those who have lost their precious lives and sympathies to those injured. Sir, the purpose of the terrorist groups is to destabilise our country's economy, to infuse fear in the minds of the people and the foreign investors that India is not a secure place. Sir, the Government is making all its efforts. While we appreciate the fact that terrorist incidents have come down, we have to see that even one such incident does not occur in future. Sir, making use of this occasion, I appeal to the people of this country to kindly extend their cooperation to the security staff at sensitive spots. In some places, people do not cooperate with the security staff which makes them helpless. So, it is the responsibility of one and all in the country, as well as the political parties, to extend their cooperation to the Government because any more incident cannot be tolerated and the common citizens must feel secure. Again, I assure that our Party will give the fullest cooperation to the Government for its effective steps, and again I express my condolences to the victims.

श्री तारिक अनवर (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं भी अपनी ओर से और अपनी पार्टी एनसीपी की ओर से इस घिनौनी घटना की भर्त्सना करता हूँ, निन्दा करता हूँ और मजम्मत करता हूँ। इस सदन की और पूरे देश की जो भावना है, उससे अपने आपको जोड़ते हुए मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि इस कठिन समय में पूरा देश एकजुट होगा। हमारे मुल्क के खिलाफ जो एक नापाक साजिश है कि इस मुल्क को destabilise किया जाए, अस्थिरता पैदा की जाए ताकि हमारे देश का विकास अवरुद्ध हो सके, उस स्थिति में हम सब लोगों को एकजुट होना है और उन साजिश करने वालों को नाकामयाब करने के लिए हर संभव उपाय करना है। हम सरकार को यह आश्वासन देते हैं कि हमारी पार्टी और देश के तमाम लोग आज इस घटना की न सिर्फ भर्त्सना

और निन्दा करते हैं, बल्कि हम चाहते हैं कि ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ कठोर कार्रवाई की जाए ताकि उन आतंकवादियों को सबक हासिल हो और भविष्य में ऐसी घटना न हो जिससे हमारे देश के निर्दोष और मासूम लोगों की हत्या हो सके।

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, on behalf of my party, All-India Trinamool Congress, I express my concern and anguish, the way the hon. Members have expressed, on the incident that took place in front of the Delhi High Court today. Our deepest condolences go to the members of the bereaved families. We condemn the incident in no uncertain terms but at the same time, we will have to prove that India will not bow down before the merchants of death, and, we must unearth the evil designs of the perpetrators of such ghastly show of terrorism that took place today. We do not know how long it will be continued because it is happening in quick successions, at regular intervals. Lastly, we should, once again, tell the entire world that no conspiracy against India will succeed and India is one and united.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA (Orissa): Sir, on behalf of my Party, Biju Janata Dal, I join my colleagues to express unequivocal condemnation of this ghastly incident which took place today in front of Delhi High Court. I also express my deep condolences for the people who lost their lives and also those who are injured.

I request the Government to give generous monetary compensation to the bereaved families who lost their loved ones, and, also to give proper medical treatment to the people who are injured.

I would like to advise the Government to take more resolute steps to check terrorism, which is the main danger to our national security and national integration. We should also tell the terrorists and the conspirators that by this type of ghastly incidents, they cannot threaten our country or break our unity. We have proved our unity and patriotism in the past, and, now, also, we, the entire India stands united in the interest of its people.

श्री रामविलास पासवान (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं अपनी पार्टी लोक जन शक्ति की तरफ से आज हुई बम ब्लास्ट की घटना के प्रति जहां गहरी चिंता, संवेदना प्रकट करता हूँ वहीं इस की घोर निंदा भी करता हूँ। महोदय, मैं पूरे सदन की भावना के साथ हूँ। महोदय, आज देश और पूरी दुनिया को यह संदेश जाना चाहिए कि terrorism को किसी भी तरह बर्दाश्त नहीं किया जा सकता। इस मौके पर मैं यही कहना चाहूंगा कि जब भी कोई बम ब्लास्ट होता है तो एक समुदाय विशेष के ऊपर उंगली उठती है, उस को टारगेट किया जाता है, ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए।

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Thank you, Sir. I join the House in condemning this attack, and, on behalf of my Party, I deplore this act of terrorism. Sir, I come from Mumbai, and, we have been subjected to repeated terrorist attacks since 1993, and, therefore, I know what it means to lose your near and dear ones or innocent people in an act of terrorism.

Sir, I hope that we should not be reduced to a soft target of the terrorists, and, most of the terrorism which happens from outside the country. I hope and pray that this is the last incidence of terrorism attack on my mother land.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं अपनी पार्टी राष्ट्रीय जनता दल की ओर से आज हुई बम ब्लास्ट की घटना की निंदा करता हूँ और मृतकों के प्रति संवेदना प्रकट करता हूँ। मैं मांग करता हूँ कि इस घटना की पूरी छानबीन होनी चाहिए और ऐसा अटैक दोबारा न हो, इस बारे में भी विचार किया जाना चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at forty-five minutes past three of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 8th September, 2011.