

Serial blasts in Gandhi Maidan, Patna

*202. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prior to serial blasts in Gandhi Maidan, Patna, Intelligence Bureau (IB) had relayed specific input to the State Government warning such terror attack;

(b) if so, the subsequent action taken by the Union Government in coordination with the State Government to avoid its occurrence;

(c) whether Bihar Government was offered custody of Indian Mujahideen (IM) mastermind Yasin Bhatkal, if so, what was their response; and

(d) whether terror mastermind of Gandhi Maidan blasts, Tehseen Akhtar escaped arrest from a Mangalore flat earlier because of the leakage of the news of Yasin Bhatkal's arrest, if so, the reasons for such a crucial operational leak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The local Police was sensitized by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) on the security threat faced by the Chief Minister of Gujarat from Pak based terrorist groups including the IM besides other fundamentalist groups. In view of the threat perception to the Gandhi Maidan rally, Advanced Security Liaison (ASL) was conducted on 25th and 26th October, 2013 for the visit of the Chief Minister of Gujarat on 27th October, 2013. The security arrangements were also discussed by IB officers with the officials of Bihar Police.

(c) On August 29, 2013, Yasin Bhatkal, mastermind of IM and Asadullah Akhtar, IM activist were arrested from Raxaul, Bihar on Indo-Nepal border by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

(d) Investigation in NIA cases have not revealed any evidence to substantiate such a claim till date.

Suggestions regarding police reforms

*203. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any suggestions/memoranda from social organisations and others regarding police reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and total number of such suggestions/memoranda received during each of the last three years and current year;

- (c) the action taken by Government in consultation with State Governments;
- (d) the measures taken by Government to improve the attitude/ behaviour of police personnel towards the society in general and women in particular; and
- (e) whether Government has any Committee/mechanism to review the performance of police systems in States, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Various letters and representations are received from individuals/Social Organizations from time to time in the Ministry of Home Affairs suggesting police reform measures. The suggestions are noted and the concerned individuals/social organizations are responded to by informing them that the matter of police reforms is an ongoing process and that the Police being a State subject included in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, it is for the State Governments/UT Administrations to implement various police reforms measures. In the Ministry of Home Affairs, no such data on suggestions received is maintained.

In order to improve the functioning of the Police, various Commission/Committees were constituted during the last three decades for making recommendations regarding reforms in the Police Forces in the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs appointed a Review Committee on 21.12.2004 to review the recommendations of the previous Commission/Committees set up on Police Reforms; to short list the recommendations which have not been implemented or have been implemented only partially; and to recommend the present course of action on such recommendations. The Committee gave its report in March, 2005, giving 49 recommendations on Police Reforms. The recommendations were meant for transforming the Police into a professionally competent and service oriented organisation. These 49 recommendations were sent to the State Governments/UTs for implementation.

Besides this, on the recommendations of the Review Committee, the Model Police Act, 2006 was drafted and sent to the State Governments on 31st October, 2006, with the request to frame a new State Police Act or amend their existing State Police Acts based on the Model Police Act. So far, 14 State Governments, viz., Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttarakhand have formulated their State Police Acts and 2 State Governments, viz., Gujarat and Karnataka have amended their existing Police Acts. Thus, 16 State Governments have either formulated new State Police Acts or amended their existing Police Acts on the pattern of Model Police Act.

"Public Order" and "Police" are "State subjects" falling in Entry 1 & 2 of List-II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and it is the State Governments, which have to implement various police reforms measures. The Centre has been persuading the State Governments from time to time to bring in the requisite reforms in the Police administration to meet the expectations of the people. Police reform measures are also supported through the grants-in-aid released to the State Governments under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces (MPF) by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The major items of police infrastructure for State police supported under the Scheme are mobility, modern weaponry, training infrastructure facilities, forensic science equipment, security equipment, traffic equipment, construction of residential buildings for lower level police personnel, etc.

(d) "Public Order" and "Police" are "State subjects" as per the VII Schedule of the Constitution of India. Maintenance of law and order in a State and prevention of crime are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments. The Union Government, however, attaches the highest importance to the prevention of crime and, therefore, the Government of India have been advising the State Governments and UT Administrations from time to time regarding the steps that need to be taken to provide a greater measure of protection to the public, especially women, and in particular, prevent incidence of crime against women and children and give focused attention to the administration of the criminal justice system with emphasis on prevention and control of crime. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure that Police remains accountable, people friendly, responsive towards public and its behaviour is socially acceptable.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has sent a detailed advisory dated 4.9.2009 to all the State Governments/UT Administrations requesting them to undertake a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the machinery for ensuring safety and security of women and control of crimes committed against women in the country. The State Governments and UT Administrations were also requested to vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to crime against women and children; increase the overall representation of women in police forces; sensitise the law enforcement machinery towards crime against review of the effectiveness of the machinery for ensuring safety and security of children and control of crimes committed against them, which, *inter-alia*, include vigorous enforcement of all the existing laws and sensitizing the law enforcement machinery, *i.e.*, the police as well as other functionaries of the criminal justice system towards prevention of crime against women and children

through well-structured training and awareness programmes and seminars etc., set up exclusive 'Crime Against Women/Children' desks in each police station, women police stations, increase police patrolling especially during the night, etc.

Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has requested States/UTs/CPOs/CAPFs to organize workshops at State and District levels on "Gender sensitisation and crime against women" and has released funds for conducting 92 States/District level workshops. BPR&D has also issued an advisory to all States/UTs/CAPFs to include Gender Sensitisation Modules in all of the curriculums of basic and refresher training courses for all ranks of police trainees. Further, BPR&D organizes regular courses on "Investigation of Crime against Women" every year in its Central Detective Training School.

The Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr. PC) have been amended recently through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013 to make it more women friendly and to provide deterrent punishment to the offenders.

(e) No, Sir. Since "Public Order" and "Police" are "State subjects" falling in Entry 1 & 2 of List-II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, maintenance of law and order in a State and prevention of crime are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments. However, as elaborated in reply to para (a) to (c) above, several Committees/Commission have been constituted by the Government, with a view to identify the measures of reforms required in the Police Forces in the country. The recommendations of all such Committees/Commission in so far as these pertain to "Police" and "Public Order" are to be implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Awareness amongst fishermen about security issues of coastal areas

*204. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to bring awareness amongst fishermen about security issues related to coastal areas;

(b) whether Government is planning any such type of programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Chief Minister of Gujarat has in the past raised this issue on several