

Noes - Nil

The motion was carried by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting.

The motion was adopted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Terrorist attack on bus passengers and at Army Camp at Kaluchak near Jammu on 14th May, 2002

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, it is my sad duty to inform the House that at about 6.15, today morning, a serious terrorist incident occurred near Kaluchak in Jammu district, on the 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, terrorists started shooting indiscriminately at passengers. Sometime later, they deboarded the bus and threw a grenade towards the bus. They then ran towards the Army Camp at 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 the latest reports, the casualties in the incident had been as follows:

Three Army personnel, 8 family members of the Army personnel and 19 other civilians were killed. Out of the total 30 persons killed, 11 were women and 10 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 and civilian officers, the Governor and the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister of State (Home), Jammu and Kashmir, the Director-General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir, have visited the site of the incident and reviewed the situation. They also met the injured in the hospitals.

Abu Usama, spokesman of Lashkar-e-Taiba, based in Pak-occupied Kashmir, 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", terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir are extremely active. It is not a coincidence that the incident has occurred at a time when a senior US State Department official is visiting the country.

It may be reiterated that the Government remains committed to taking all possible 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 the calendar year, 601 terrorists, of whom 190 were 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, Shri A.K Bhandari, are leaving for Jammu today.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुरेश पचौरी) : मंत्री जी, आप स्पष्टीकरण का उत्तर अभी देना चाहेंगे या उनके आने का इंतजार करेंगे।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, I would like to submit that as the Minister of State for Home Affairs and the Special Secretary have gone to Jammu or are leaving for Jammu today, and the House is meeting for another two or three days, the House should be apprised of the latest position. Then we would like to seek some clarifications, on the basis of the information made available by the Minister of State for Home Affairs and the Special Secretary, who are visiting Jammu.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, it is a proposal to which I have no objection. I think they would come back by tomorrow evening. So, day-after-tomorrow we can discuss it. Day-after-tomorrow would be appropriate.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal) : Sir, but some obvious questions arise out of the statement itself.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुरेश पचौरी) : आ जाने दीजिए, फिर एक साथ पूछ लीजिएगा।

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : पांच-दस मिनट में हो जाएगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुरेश पचौरी): अभी रहने दीजिए। कल फिर उनके आने के बाद दुबारा पूछा जाएगा।

अब सदन की कार्यवाही कल बुधवार, 15 मई, 2002 प्रातः 11.00 बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned at fifteen minutes past eight of the clock, till eleven of the clock, on Wednesday, the 15th May, 2002.