

SPEECH
For
H.E. THE GOVERNOR OF JHARKHAND

(CONFERENCE ON INTERNAL SECURITY)

NEW DELHI.

DATE: 17.08.2009

VENUE: VIGYAN BHAVAN

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh Ji,
Union Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram Ji, Chief
Ministers of various states,

I take this opportunity to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister for convening this meeting on Internal Security and naxalism. The internal security scenario in the State is being closely monitored, however, the advice given by MHA from time to time to the State is taken seriously and officers concerned are sensitized on regular basis.

The principal issue of internal security facing Jharkhand is naxalism. Since there is a separate session exclusively slated for discussions in the afternoon, I, will confine myself to issues other than naxalism. On the law and order front, what is remarkable is that the State has not witnessed any major communal incident since its inception. Four districts, namely Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, and Giridih, have traditionally been regarded as communally sensitive. We are monitoring all issues

affecting communal scenario and deployment of forces during the festivals is being done. As a result, we have been able to keep the communal situation totally under control. Peace Committee meetings are convened regularly at the District and Police Stations levels. To prevent and control communal riots we have created three companies of Rapid Action Police (RAP) on the lines of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and have got them trained by RAF at Jamshedpur.

On the issue of the challenges of terrorism, the state had inputs of existence of a few sleeper cells. However, these were verified and so far nothing alarming has emerged. The state is fully committed to the Government of India's twin agenda on this issue which was outlined in the last meet in January, i.e.

To raise the level of preparedness to meet the increasing terrorist threats

To enhance the speed and decisiveness of the response to a terrorist threat or a terrorist attack.

Accordingly, all necessary steps as outlined in the Government of India guidelines issued from time to

time are being diligently followed. Let me spell out some of the steps taken by us in this direction:

A Subsidiary Multi Agency Centre (SMAC) has been established at the combined campus of Police Headquarters (PHQ) and Special Branch. Special Branch personnel man this centre and maintain online connectivity with the central Multi Agency Centre (MAC) in New Delhi. Besides, regular meetings are held between the Special Branch and other agencies. Significantly, funds have also been sanctioned for the setting up of a fully equipped SMAC building at the Police Headquarters (PHQ) to facilitate regular meetings and interface of all concerned agencies on a day to day basis.

In line with the priorities raised at the last meeting, 24x7 district control rooms have been set up in all districts and comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been issued. A State Control Room equipped with modern facilities has been set up in the State Secretariat campus at Ranchi. It is also working on 24x7 basis as a centralized point for

collection, collation and dissemination of information.

Quick Response Teams (QRTs) have been created in major urban centres in the name of the "Jharkhand Jaguar" force (STF). It has been deployed as a QRT at critical points across the state, including all major urban centres. Each team has a separate Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) team, Wireless set, Dog squad. We, however, realize that the Jharkhand Jaguar which has been created with the principal aim of tackling naxalism cannot be apportioned to non-naxal duties for long. Therefore, we are planning to create separate Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) units under the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for which the CID is preparing an exhaustive proposal. We require support from Govt. of India on this count.

The State Special Branch has already been restructured as per template provided by the Government of India. Although for the time being this has been done within the available resources, the state government will soon be taking up the additional sanction of posts for the special branch to fully facilitate the restructuring.

Moreover, 40% of the Special Branch strength has been rendered as closed cadre to improve commitment to intelligence work among the rank and file. An Analysis Group within the State Special Branch to coordinate with SMAC has also been put in place with a DIG in charge.

To improve the low police population ratio, filling up of existing vacancies in the police has been taken up as a priority. Indeed in the last few years massive recruitment has led to the police-population ratio rising close to national average. Today, we have approximately 150 police personnel per lakh of population. Recruitment drives are on for filling up vacancies in all police ranks and the situation will improve by the end of this calendar year.

The Government has already sanctioned the creation of a Jharkhand State Industrial Security force (JSISF) in line with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The bylaws for the same are under preparation and recruitment will commence once the bye laws are finalized.

Intelligence sharing with other states is a priority for us as we are aware of our geographical position at the centre of several naxal affected states. We are also sharing intelligence on terrorist activities and sleeper cell movements with other states.

We have been consistently utilizing our police modernisation funds at an optimal level. Today with the support of Government of India, the state police have been able to modernize and strengthen itself to great extent. This capacity building is evident in areas of better buildings infrastructure, training facilities, sophisticated weaponry, optimal mobility at Police Station levels, communication infrastructure and TETRA communication system at Ranchi and Jamshedpur, computerization, setting up a police data centre and finally sophisticated Bomb Disposal and other security equipment.

Out of the five India Reserve Battalions (IRBs) sanctioned, three IRBs have already been raised in the state. The recruitment process for the fourth and fifth IRBs has commenced.

On the point of specialised Training of Forces, Jharkhand has taken pro-active action in ensuring training of all its police ranks in specialised areas like Bomb Disposal and Detection, Weapons and Tactics, Jungle Warfare and Counter-insurgency etc. The Govt. of India has sanctioned two Counter Insurgency and Anti-Terrorist (CIAT) Schools. The State Govt. from its own resources established a Jungle Warfare School at Netarhat where construction works are in the final stages.

The Special Branch has been provided with adequate infrastructure and equipment to carry out technical surveillance and counter cyber crime. The Special Branch also has a cyber security team which is headed by a cyber expert. The team is capable of extensive cyber space monitoring, including penetration testing, e mail tracking etc.

On the Forensic Science front, Jharkhand has a modern, well equipped Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL). It has recently acquired sophisticated capabilities like DNA profiling, bullet comparisons of high resolution etc. All this has led to accelerated

evidentiary reporting. Several high profile cases of organized violence have been cracked.

On the issue of statutory provisions for security, access control in urban establishments with high footfalls, the state has identified the vulnerable establishments, vital installations etc in the four major urban centres namely Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad & Bokaro. District officials have been sensitized on this issue.

On the developmental and social sector front, Government is emphasizing on implementation of flagship schemes in all the naxal affected districts. Delivery mechanism are being strengthened. Time schedules are fixed for all the schemes of public importance particularly those concerning poorest class of the society. Scheme such as public distribution system, NREGA, forest dwellers act, distribution of old age pension are being implemented on priority basis. Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police have been directed to visit interior areas and conduct camp courts.

I would like to conclude and assure the Prime Minister

and the Union Home Minister that the Jharkhand Government is fully committed to the security agenda set out by the Government of India and is endeavouring hard to accomplish all the relevant short term and long term goals as quickly as possible. I will see to it that adequate resources and funds are placed at the disposal of the concerned agencies to meet the agenda satisfactorily. Relevant policy decisions will also be taken as desired. At the end I would like to thank the Government of India for its continued support and guidance in strengthening and empowering the security preparedness of the state of Jharkhand.