

NANAVATI COMMISSION

STORIES

27-Jan-2005

[Nanavati for reopening case against Sajjan](#)

•
27-Jan-2005

[Report on '84 riots on Jan 31](#)

•
27-Jan-2005

[Cong not to blame for anti-Sikh riots: Report](#)

•
02-Jan-2005

[Nanavati Commission's report on Sikh riots by Jan end](#)

•
02-Dec-2004

[Nine family members sentenced for looting during '84 riots](#)

•
27-Oct-2004

[Cabinet extends Nanavati Commission's term till Dec 31](#)

•
08-Sep-2004

['84 riots: Report of indicting Cong leaders denied](#)

•
29-Aug-2004

[Gavai refutes allegation of calling Army late during '84 riots](#)

•
27-Aug-2004

[Kamal Nath, Tytler, Sathe deny involvement in '84 riots](#)

•
19-Aug-2004

[BJP favours law for shifting '84 riot cases to other states](#)

•
09-Aug-2004

[Nanavati panel to conclude hearing on Aug 27](#)

•
30-Jul-2004

[Nanavati panel supplies documents to former LG, PCs on 84 riots](#)

•
26-Jul-2004

[Term of Nanavati Commission extended for three months](#)

•
15-Jul-2004

[HC condones delay in appeal against Sajjan in 1984 riot case](#)

•

09-Jul-2004

[Rao, Nikhil Kumar issued notice by Nanavati Commission](#)

•
21-May-2004

[Sikh bodies hope Manmohan govt works for 1984 victims](#)

•
17-May-2004

[HC issues notice to Sajjan Kumar in 1984 riots case](#)

•
20-Apr-2004

[HC dismisses petition against Bhagat in riots case](#)

•
06-Apr-2004

[CBI to file additional affidavit in 1984 riots case](#)

•
29-Jan-2004

[Cong leaders put pressure on cops to release 84 riots accused](#)

•
28-Jan-2004

[NCM chief urges Nanawati panel to submit report soon](#)

•
15-Jan-2004

[Kamal Nath denies instigating mob in 84 riots](#)

•
12-Jan-2004

[Nanavati panel grants time to Sathe, Tytler to file replies](#)

•
16-Dec-2003

[HC notice to Sajjan Kr in 1984 anti-Sikh riots case](#)

•
09-Dec-2003

[Nanavati panel gives more time to Cong leaders for reply](#)

•
08-Dec-2003

[Nanavati Commission asks noticees to reply by Jan 9](#)

•
07-Dec-2003

[SC lambasts Centre for withdrawing anti-Sikh riot cases](#)

•
25-Nov-2003

[Sajjan, Tytler, Katna issued notice by Nanavati panel](#)

•
10-Nov-2003

[Nanavati Commission asks noticees to reply](#)

- [by Dec 12](#)
- [28-Oct-2003](#)
[Kamal Nath, Sathe, Amod Kanth and 11 others issued notices](#)
- [11-Jul-2003](#)
[CBI challenges Sajjan's acquittal in 1984 anti-Sikh riots case](#)
- [25-Mar-2003](#)
[Nanavati Commission gets six-month extension](#)
- [12-Feb-2003](#)
[1984 Widows threaten self immolation](#)
- [26-Dec-2002](#)
[Khurana meets PM, DPM over Sajjan's acquittal](#)
- [25-Dec-2002](#)
[Anti-Sikh riots: Widows demand CBI probe](#)
- [23-Dec-2002](#)
[Sajjan delighted with verdict, Sikh blames DP for acquittal](#)
- [Sajjan Kumar, 16 others acquitted in '84 riots case](#)
- [Sajjan Kumar acquitted in 1984 riot case](#)
- [20-Nov-2002](#)
[Anti-Sikh riots probe report likely by March 31](#)
- [26-Sep-2002](#)
[Nanavati Commission's term extended](#)
- [30-Jul-2002](#)
[Police, administration were ill prepared during riots: GOC](#)
- [29-Jul-2002](#)
[Civil authorities were "unwilling" to deploy Army: A S Brar](#)
- [20-Jul-2002](#)
[Cell to monitor payment of compensation to 1984 riot victims](#)
- [04-Jul-2002](#)
[Rao denies charges of indifference in curbing anti-Sikh riots](#)
-

05-Jun-2002

[HC raises five-fold compensation to 1984 riot victims](#)

02-May-2002

[Rao seeks more time to record statements on 1984 riots](#)

23-Apr-2002

[Police failed to take effective steps in 84 riots; Tandon](#)

19-Apr-2002

['Reports by SHO's showed discrepancies in the number of dead'](#)

04-Apr-2002

[Ved Marwah deposes before Nanavati Commission](#)

07-Mar-2002

[Rao summoned by Nanavati Commission](#)

27-Feb-2002

[No arrest for attack on gurudwara during '84 riots: ex-SHO](#)

19-Feb-2002

[Nanavati Commission summons Marwah, former LG, CP](#)

06-Feb-2002

[Anti-Sikh riots were politically engineered massacre: Kishwar](#)

05-Feb-2002

[Cong leaders were hostile during 84 riots: witness](#)

04-Feb-2002

[Police was biased against Sikhs in 1984: witness](#)

31-Jan-2002

[Top police officer ignored Sikhs request in 84 riots: witness](#)

30-Jan-2002

[Army "purposely" not called in 84 riots: Nayyar](#)

24-Jan-2002

[Cong leaders led mobs in 1984 riots, says former Governor](#)

22-Jan-2002

[Malkani charges against govt, police on anti-](#)

- [Sikh riots](#)
- [17-Jan-2002](#)
[1984 anti-Sikh riots were organised: witness](#)
- [16-Jan-2002](#)
[Law enforcing agency was inactive in 84 riots: Verghese](#)
- [15-Jan-2002](#)
[84 anti-Sikh riots was organised: Gujral](#)
- [12-Jan-2002](#)
[Govt's attitude was indifferent during 84 riots: Yadav](#)
- [10-Jan-2002](#)
[Cong failed to take step to curb 84 riots: Malhotra](#)
- [09-Jan-2002](#)
[Crucial evidence on '84 riots destroyed: Narula](#)
- [08-Jan-2002](#)
[Suggestions to stop riots in '84 fell on deaf ears:ex-diplomat](#)
- [07-Jan-2002](#)
[Home Minister avoided to talk us during '84 riots: Paswan](#)
- [11-Dec-2001](#)
[Sajjan Kumar asked mob to kill, loot in 84 riots: Witness](#)
- [10-Dec-2001](#)
["84 riots was state-sponsored terrorism", says retd Brigadier](#)
- [05-Dec-2001](#)
[Cong leaders instigated violence in 84 riots: witnesses](#)
- [04-Dec-2001](#)
[A Cong leader led the mob in 84 riots: Witness](#)
- [03-Dec-2001](#)
[Police, a party to lawlessness in '84, alleges Akali leader](#)
- [28-Nov-2001](#)
[Court completes evidence against Sajjan in 1984 riot case](#)
- [26-Nov-2001](#)

[House set on fire in presence of police in 84 riots: ACP](#)

•
21-Nov-2001

[Army action in worst affected 84 riots began late: ACP](#)

•
20-Nov-2001

[No arrest for five days in Yamunapuri during '84 riots: ACP](#)

•
19-Nov-2001

[Nanavati panel asks Delhi police to clarify number of deaths](#)

•
11-Nov-2001

[Gujral, Dandavate, Paswan, Yadav summoned by Nanavati panel](#)

•
01-Nov-2001

[Bhagal meets PM](#)

•
04-Oct-2001

[Additional force not sent to control '84 riots](#)

•
25-Sep-2001

[Nanavati Commission summons Delhi govt Chief Secretary](#)

•
19-Sep-2001

[Ambiguity creeps up in police version about '84 riots](#)

•
12-Sep-2001

[Police had not fired on the '84 rioters on Nov 1](#)

•
11-Sep-2001

[Police got info from Vajpayee's residence about mob attack](#)

•
06-Sep-2001

[No record about the arrest of bad characters during 84 riots](#)

•
05-Sep-2001

[Police accused of not registering FIR during '84 riots](#)

•
03-Sep-2001

[Police request Nanavati Commission not to summon its officers](#)

•
29-Aug-2001

[IO says there were several lapses in 84 riots investigation](#)

•

07-Aug-2001

[Dead bodies were thrown in Yamuna, says victim of 1984 riots](#)

•
19-Jul-2001

[84' riot victims contradict police report](#)

•

NANAVATI-RIOTS

Nanavati for reopening case against Sajjan

NEW DELHI, JAN 27 (PTI)

A commission of Inquiry, which probed the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in the Capital, is understood to have recommended reinvestigation of cases against some Congress leaders, including Mr Sajjan Kumar, while not blaming the entire party or the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for the incidents.

In a report to be submitted to the government on January 31, the Justice Nanavati Commission is believed to have said that though the violence that followed the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was "organised and systematic" in several areas, the entire Congress apparatus cannot be held responsible for the acts of individual politicians, hooligans, depraved people and local gangs.

More than 3,000 Sikhs were killed in the violence that gripped Delhi from the night of October 31, 1984, for three to four days.

How could a Prime Minister be held responsible for each and every action in a police station or a particular district in Delhi, NDTV said quoting from the report of the commission.

However, the role of the then Home Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao came under the commission's scrutiny. It felt he did not act quickly and decisively to control the situation, the TV channel said.

NANAVATI-RIOTS

Report on '84 riots on Jan 31

NEW DELHI, JAN 27 (UNI)

The much-awaited report of Justice Nanavati Commission, which inquired into the 20-year-old anti-Sikh riots following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, will be submitted to the Union Home Ministry on January 31.

The one-man commission, which wound up its hearing on August 27, is giving the finishing touches to the report, which would be handed over to the Home Ministry by the end of this month, commission Secretary J.P. Narain said.

NANAVATI-RIOTS

Cong not to blame for anti-Sikh riots: Report

RAJDEEP SARDESAI NEW DELHI, JAN 27

The Justice Nanavati report on the anti-Sikh riots of 1984 is ready and will be given to the Home Ministry next week.

For more than two decades, the sepia-tinted images of the riots, have haunted the nation. But

they haven't led to justice for the victims.

The report of the commission could jog public memory once again.

Clean chit

NDTV has learnt that the Commission will not directly indict the Congress party for its role in the violence.

According to sources, the commission feels that the violence was "organised" and "systematic" in several areas.

But it maintains that the entire Congress party apparatus cannot be held responsible for the acts of individual politicians, hooligans, depraved people and local gangs.

The report, according to sources, does not hold the then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi directly responsible in any way for the failure to check the violence.

"How can a prime minister be held responsible for each and every action in a police station or a particular district of Delhi?" is the explanation being given.

Under scanner

However, the role of another former prime minister, late Narasimha Rao, who was home minister at the time, has come under greater scrutiny.

According to sources, the Commission feels that as home minister, Rao did not act quickly and decisively enough in controlling the law and order situation.

There are also no adverse findings against two other union minister Kamal Nath and Jagdish Tytler, who deposed before the Commission.

According to sources, the evidence brought against them was weak.

Re-investigate cases

But the Commission has found enough evidence from witnesses to recommend a re-investigation of cases against some party leaders.

These include sitting Congress MP from outer Delhi, Sajjan Kumar, former union minister H K L Bhagat and another former Delhi MP, Dharamdas Shastri.

Ironically, Kumar is the only active politician who could face embarrassment and even he has been acquitted by the Delhi High Court in one major case.

The Commission is also likely to pass strictures against senior Delhi police officers at the time and recommend departmental inquiries against them.

But here again, Commission sources maintain, "you cannot blame the police as an institution for the failure of individual officers."

Justice served?

According to sources, the Commission's terms of reference do not allow it to pronounce on the guilt of anyone.

It can only ask for re-investigation in those cases, which the police filed as "untraced" but where witnesses have now come forward to depose against individuals who were part of the mob.

The other category is the cases where people were named by witnesses but not made accused.

The Commission received more than 10,000 affidavits and examined 197 witnesses.

But there is a question mark over whether it has come any closer to providing real justice to the victims of the 1984 riots.

Ironically, Justice Nanavati is also heading the commission appointed to inquire into the Gujarat riots.

His report then might only then end up reviving the debate on whether inquiry commissions alone can ensure speedy and genuine justice to the victims of communal riots.

Muted reactions

Political reactions to the development reported by NDTV were muted.

Kumar walked away when told he was one of the politicians against whom action had been recommended.

The Congress has side stepped comments against individual leaders, but it says the report proves the BJP launched a misleading campaign against the party.

"The BJP campaign has been slanderous and this report exposes this," says Anand Sharma, Congress spokesperson.

Cautious approach

It's the BJP, which is now reacting cautiously, after accusing the Congress of orchestrating the anti-Sikh riots. The NDA government had set up this committee in 2003.

"I don't think this conclusion is possible. All commissions of inquiry before this has blamed the Congress. We will officially react only after seeing the report," says V K Malhotra, BJP spokesperson.

Over the last 20 years, a commission of inquiry and eight committees were set up to investigate the anti-Sikh riots.

Officially, 2733 people were killed but only nine people, none of them Congress workers, have received life sentences.

Only two Congress leaders, Sajjan Kumar and H K L Bhagat, were indicted. But Kumar was acquitted by a lower court in 2002 and his case presently rests with the Delhi High Court. And Bhagat is now medically unfit and cannot make a statement.

NANAVATI-RIOTS

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NANAVATI-RIOTS

Nanavati Commission's report on Sikh riots by Jan end

RANJIT KUMAR SINHA NEW DELHI, JAN 2 (PTI)

The Justice Nanavati Commission, inquiring into the 1984 Sikh riots, which is preparing to submit its report to the Union Home Ministry, sees a "pattern" behind the attacks on Sikhs.

"The evidence does indicate a pattern in which the riots took place and the pattern in which the attacks took place on the Sikhs," Justice G T Nanavati said refusing to elaborate on the merits of the evidence taken into consideration by it.

"All the evidence has been scrutinised and the report will be submitted to the Home Ministry with recommendations positively by January 31," he told PTI.

The Commission, the second one to probe into the riots after Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission, is expected to give its finding on the causes of the riots, whether it was instigated by politicians as also the role of the police and law enforcing agencies.

Many Congress leaders, including Union Ministers Jagdish Tytler and Kamal Nath, late Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, Vasant Sathe, Sajjan Kumar were examined by the Nanavati Commission.

Allegations were also levelled against former Union Minister H K L Bhagat regarding his role in the riots. However, he did not appear before the Commission citing health grounds.

COURT-RIOTS

Nine family members sentenced for looting during '84 riots

NEW DELHI, DEC 2 (PTI)

Two decades after Sikhs here were massacred following former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination, a Delhi court today sentenced nine members of a family to four years' rigorous imprisonment for looting and forcibly occupying the shop of an elderly woman under cover of the riots.

"The accused took benefit of the riots, broke open the lock in November 1984 and took possession of the shop as well as the property lying in the shop...Taking any lenient view against the accused persons shall amount to putting premium on the crime," Additional Sessions Judge S N Dhingra ordered.

Those sentenced are Bhagwan Dass and his wife, Uday Ram and wife Muni Devi, Ashi Devi and her sons Kishori and Omprakash, Sheela and one Kishan.

A tenth accused Harish was acquitted as no witness named or identified him.

Besides the RI and fine of Rs 26,000 each, the ASJ also directed police to "remove the accused persons" from the property in question, if necessary "forcibly" within 15 days of the order and return it to the original owner Prakash Kaur.

Kaur and her son Jagjeet Singh were running a crockery shop in North Delhi. When the riots broke out, the accused broke open the shop, looted the goods and occupied it illegally.

Despite repeated complaints, police "which had become a silent spectator of the riots", refused to file a case, said the order.

Finally, the FIR was registered following recommendation of the Jain-Aggarwal Committee constituted by the Government.

CABINET-NANAVATI

Cabinet extends Nanavati Commission's term till Dec 31

NEW DELHI, OCT 27 (PTI)

The Union Cabinet today extended till December 31 this year the term of the Justice Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots which broke out in Delhi and certain other parts of the country following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"The Commission is likely to complete its inquiry by December 31 and no further extension is expected to be given" an official spokesperson said.

The extended term of the Commission was to expire on November two.

The spokesperson said since the Commission, which was set up on October three, 2000, could not complete the inquiry within the prescribed time, its tenure had to be extended from time to time.

The Cabinet also approved retention of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act 1983 and its application to Assam in the present form.

NANAVATI

'84 riots: Report of indicting Cong leaders denied

NEW DELHI, SEP 8 (PTI)

Amidst raging controversy over the reported statement of Justice G T Nanavati probing the

1984 anti-Sikh riots indicting some Congress leaders, the Nanavati Commission today made it clear that "nobody has been exonerated or indicted by it".

"It is made clear that nobody has been exonerated or indicted by the Commission and the press reports in this regard are not correct," J P Narain, Secretary, Justice Nanavati Commission of Inquiry, said in a press release.

"As the evidence has not been appreciated so far, therefore, question of indicting anybody or exonerating anybody at this stage does not arise," the release said.

It said the Commission has taken a strong view regarding the wrong reporting in certain newspapers of indicting and exonerating leaders of Congress (I).

"The Chairman, Justice G T Nanavati,... has talked about issuance of 8B Notice to certain Congress leaders on the basis of affidavits and other records available with the Commission. So far the Commission has not considered the affidavits, replies to 8B Notices and other material available with the Commission and Commission has not indicted or exonerated any individual," the release said.

NANAVATI

Gavai refutes allegation of calling Army late during '84 riots

NEW DELHI, AUG 29 (PTI)

P G Gavai, who was Delhi's Lt Governor when anti-Sikh riots broke out in the aftermath of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, has refuted the allegation that he had delayed calling the Army saying in fact he had sought their deployment without delay.

Referring to a November 1, 1984 meeting presided over by P C Alexander, the then Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, which was attended by the then Home Minister P V Narasimha Rao, then Home Secretary and Army Chief General A S Vaidya besides himself, Gavai told the Nanavati Commission everybody had agreed with his suggestion to call the Army.

"Only I spoke to stress, that the Delhi Police force was understaffed, even for their normal duties and at this juncture the police force has got to be reinforced by urgent augmentation. I also simultaneously stressed that the Army should be called at once, without waiting even for a moment," he told the Commission, probing the anti-Sikh riots, which concluded its hearing on Friday.

However, Alexander has denied presiding over any such meeting after Gavai filed his reply before the Nanavati Commission earlier this month.

Gavai was issued notice under section 8-B of the Commission of Inquiry Act by the Commission asking him to produce evidence in his defence as it felt his reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the Inquiry report.

It was alleged before the Commission that Gavai had failed to anticipate violence, delayed in calling the Army, delayed in issuing shoot-at-sight orders and being a party to a grand design to teach a lesson to the Sikhs.

Gavai, who termed the three days from October 31 to November 2, 1984 as "black days" of the nation, said despite doing everything that could be expected from any human being in responsible position, "some vested interests" wanted to make him a "scape goat" "...I received a telephone from Dr Alexander, asking me to go on leave, and that I would be

offered the post of the Chairman, UPSC on resumption. I told Dr Alexander that a Lt Governor in this situation does not go on leave. Either he functions or he resigns," he said referring to a call received by him while holding a meeting at his office.

The former Lt Governor also refuted findings of Justice Rangnath Misra Commission against him saying he was misquoted.

"To my horror I found that I was totally quoted out of context, misquoted and a number of items of information given by me to him like the important meeting with Dr Alexander etc, just do not find even a vague mention," he told the Commission in his reply.

Misra Commission had also inquired into the sequence of events leading to the anti-Sikh riots.

Narrating hour-by-hour account from October 31 to November 3, 1984, the day he resigned, Gavai said the false allegations made against him in Justice Misra's report has to be discarded.

NANAVATI

Kamal Nath, Tytler, Sathe deny involvement in '84 riots

NEW DELHI, AUG 27 (PTI)

Union Ministers Kamal Nath, Jagdish Tytler and senior Congress leader Vasant Sathe today denied before the Nanavati Commission, probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, that they instigated violence in the aftermath of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination. "It is a case of conspiracy. Other persons were propping up the witnesses to name the leaders for their involvement in the riots," advocate Lavkesh Sawhney appearing for the three Congress leaders, told the Commission on its concluding hearing.

"In fact, Kamal Nath, as a responsible leader had gone near the Gurudwara to pacify the crowd," he said and added that the testimony of the witness Mukhtiyar Singh could not be relied as during the recording of his statement he admitted that the Congress leader was pacifying people, who had gathered around Gurudwara Rakab Ganj in the heart of the city.

He said Singh's statement was motivated as it came when Lok Sabha election was near.

The advocate said Singh was an unreliable witness as he had not appeared before the earlier Commission, which inquired the riots. Sawhney said even the allegation against Sathe was wrong as he was not around the Gurudwara when the mob had assembled. "At that particular time, he was participating in a discussion in Doordarshan and this could be proved from the video tapes kept in the archives," he said. The advocate said the evidence against Tytler could not be relied as it was submitted by way of an affidavit and that it has come on record that the witness could not either write or understand English.

However, senior advocate H S Phoolka, appearing for the Carnage Justice Committee, representing the victims of the riots, said the testimony of the witness against Tytler stands as the Congress leader did not prefer to cross-examine him.

The one-man Commission headed by Justice G T Nanavati has issued notices to the three leaders under section 8-B of the Commission of Inquiry Act asking them to produce evidence in their defence as it felt their reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the Inquiry report.

Former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, who was then the Home Minister was also issued notice as it was alleged that he delayed in calling the army when the city was burning.

Others, who were served with the notices were the then Lt Governor P G Gavai and Police

Commissioner S C Tondon.

The Nanavati Commission was constituted in 2000 by the NDA Government.

BJP-GUJARAT

BJP favours law for shifting '84 riot cases to other states

NEW DELHI, AUG 19 (PTI)

BJP today suggested enactment of a law for shifting of trial of riot cases outside the states where the violence took place and demanded review of all cases related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots on the lines of the recent Supreme Court order for reconsidering Gujarat riot cases.

"It is not a good precedent that the apex court uses different yardsticks for different states and does not have faith in its own High Court and sessions courts", BJP Parliamentary party spokesperson Sushma Swaraj told reporters here when asked about the Supreme Court order.

The apex court had on Tuesday directed the Gujarat Government to appoint a committee headed by the Director General of Police to reconsider 2000 odd riot cases and find out whether they required further investigations.

"If people in such cases will not get justice in their own states, then let there be a law that whenever such incidents take place anywhere in the country, the trial would be shifted to other states", she said.

By this yardstick, she said all cases pertaining to the 1984 riots too should be shifted out of Delhi as there were allegations of complainants and witnesses being "threatened".

Denying that the court order was an indictment of the BJP-ruled Government in Gujarat, she said, "it is a comment on the High Court and the Sessions court.

NANAVATI

Nanavati panel to conclude hearing on Aug 27

NEW DELHI, AUG 9 (PTI)

The Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots today scheduled its last hearing for August 27 even as senior Congress leaders Vasant Sathe, Kamal Nath and Jagdish Tytler, accused of whipping up mob passion during the riots, decided not to cross-examine some witnesses.

Justice G T Nanavati said those against whom notices were issued under the Commission of Inquiry Act could file their explanation by August 20.

Besides the Congress leaders, the Commission had issued notices to several persons, including former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, the then top brass in police and administration asking them to produce evidence in their defence as it felt their reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the Inquiry report.

The Carnage Justice Committee, representing the victims of 84 riots, had alleged that Rao as the then Home Minister, had delayed in calling the army to control the riots.

Against Union Minister Kamal Nath, witnesses had alleged that he had instigated the mob which was on a rampage in Rakab Ganj area in the heart of the city.

Ajit Singh, the witness, who was to be cross-examined in this connection appeared before the Commission, but Nath's counsel said the Congress leader has decided to drop the cross-examination.

The same decision was taken by Sathe against whom evidence has come on record that he also allegedly instigated the mob in the Rakab Ganj area, the counsel said.

Union Minister Jagdish Tytler has also decided not to go for any further cross-examination, the counsel told the Commission, which has already completed the recording of evidence.

Some witnesses had alleged that Tytler was present when a mob had killed Sikhs in north Delhi.

The notices were also issued to the then Delhi Lt Governor P G Gavai, Police Commissioner S C Tandon and Additional Police Commissioner Nikhil Kumar.

Several other officers and local Congress leaders were also issued notices.

NANAVATI

Nanavati panel supplies documents to former LG, PCs on 84 riots

NEW DELHI, JUL 30 (PTI)

The Nanavati Commission, probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, today supplied documents to the then three top administrative and police officers of the capital against whom evidence have been brought by the witnesses, but none appeared to collect it on behalf of former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao.

Rao had filed an application on July 14 seeking supply of the content on the basis of which he was issued notice on July 9 by the Commission.

Rao was the Home Minister during the riots, which occurred after the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in which a large number of people from Sikh Community were killed and their property destroyed.

Besides Rao, the one-man Committee headed by Justice G T Nanavati had also issued 8-B notices under the Commission of Inquiry Act to newly elected Congress MP and former Delhi Police Commissioner Nikhil Kumar, the then Delhi Lt Governor P G Gavai and Police Commissioner S C Tandon.

Kumar was Additional Commissioner of Police in 1984.

Kumar, Gavai and Tandon were supplied with the documents by the Secretary of the Commission J P Narain. They have been asked to file their replies by August 20.

The Commission had issued notices to them to produce evidence in their defence as it felt their reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the Inquiry report.

The Commission has already completed the recording of evidence of witnesses.

Senior advocate H S Phoolka, appearing for the Carnage Justice Committee, representing the victims of the riots, had alleged that Rao delayed in calling the Army to control several groups of rioters in different parts of the city.

Witnesses alleged that Rao had adopted a negligent attitude when the city was under fire.

Against Kumar, it was alleged that he did not give the order for the dispatch of police force to East Delhi, one of the worst affected areas.

Phoolka said the allegations against Gavai and Tandon was their failure to maintain law and order in the capital.

CABINET-NANAVATI

Term of Nanavati Commission extended for three months

NEW DELHI, JUL 26 (PTI)

The term of the Justice Nanavati Commission set up to inquire into the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi and other parts of the country has been extended by three months.

The decision was taken today at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, according to an official spokesperson.

The Commission's term, which was to expire on August two, 2004 has now been extended upto November two, 2004.

The Commission is probing the riots in the wake of the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The spokesperson said the inquiry will help in bringing out the sequence of events leading to the violence and riots and all related facts.

It will also infuse a sense of security and confidence in the public in general and the Sikh community in particular, she said.

HC-SAJJAN

HC condones delay in appeal against Sajjan in 1984 riot case

NEW DELHI, JUL 15 (PTI)

The Delhi High Court today condoned the delay on the part of CBI in filing an appeal against the acquittal of Congress MP Sajjan Kumar and nine others in a 1984 anti-Sikh riot case.

Condoning the nine-day delay in challenging the acquittals, a Division Bench of Justice B A Khan and Justice Jaspal Singh fixed September 13 for further hearing.

Kumar, along with some local Congress leaders, was tried for allegedly leading a mob that killed and looted Sikhs in outer and west Delhi following assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984.

A Sessions Court had on December 23, 2002 acquitted Kumar in the case on the ground that CBI failed to prove the charge that he actually led the mob which killed about 50 Sikhs in an outer Delhi area.

CBI has challenged his acquittal on the ground that the trial court erred in acquitting the accused as it considered statements of prosecution witnesses before various Inquiry

Commissions.

Statements given before Inquiry Commissions were not admissible as evidence in a criminal case, the agency claimed.

The High Court has already summoned trial court records.

Eight riot victims and the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) have also filed separate appeals against the acquittals and the court has to decide whether it should entertain private appeals when the state has also preferred an appeal in the matter.

NANAVATI

Rao, Nikhil Kumar issued notice by Nanavati Commission

NEW DELHI, JUL 9 (PTI)

The Nanavati Commission, probing the 1984 Sikh riots, today issued notice to former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao asking him to reply to the evidence brought on record against him by the witnesses.

Rao was the Home Minister during the riots, which occurred after the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in which a large number of people from Sikh Community were killed and their property destroyed.

Besides Rao, the one-man Committee headed by Justice G T Nanavati also issued 8-B notices under the Commission of Inquiry Act to newly elected Congress MP and former Delhi Police Commissioner Nikhil Kumar.

Kumar was Additional Commissioner of Police in 1984.

The notices were also issued to the then Delhi Lt Governor P G Gavai and Police Commissioner S C Tandon.

The Commission issued notices to them to produce evidence in their defence as it felt their reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the Inquiry report.

They have been asked to file their replies by July 30.

The Commission has already completed the recording of evidence of witnesses.

Senior advocate H S Phoolka, appearing for the Carnage Justice Commiitee, representing the victims of the riots, had alleged that Rao delayed in calling the Army to control several groups of rioters in different parts of the city.

Witnesses alleged that Rao had adopted a negligent attitude when the city was under fire.

Against Kumar, it was alleged that he did not give the order for the dispatch of police force to East Delhi, one of the worst affected areas.

Phoolka said the allegations against Gavai and Tandon was their failure to maintain law and order in the capital.

MANMOHAN-RIOT

Sikh bodies hope Manmohan govt works for 1984

victims

NEW DELHI, MAY 21 (PTI)

With the appointment of Manmohan Singh as the next Prime Minister, victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riot are finally seeing a silver lining at the end of a dark cloud, which stretched for 20 long years.

While some are brooding over the old question of justice to the victims, others say, "the children of widows and orphans of those killed in the riots have grown up and it is their future which needs to be secured." "It will always prick that justice was delayed, but there are more important issues to be addressed first - employment for the children of riot victims and giving them a secure future," said Wg Cdr (ret'd) R S Chatwal of Sikh Forum, which has been involved with the education of such children.

"There are around 1,500 children who are enrolled in various schools by the Forum, but of them only around 20 have been able to complete their schooling and do some professional course. Others hardly completed their primary level and are today doing menial jobs," he said.

The main task before Manmohan Singh's government would be to urgently provide employment and training opportunities for these youth, he said adding "the earlier governments too had done their bit for the widows, but it is now the time to settle their children... give at least job to one person from a family." The frustration level, both among educated and uneducated groups is high because the former have not been able to get good jobs and the latter have not been trained into doing anything much, said Chatwal.

"Justice was delayed because of the judiciary, but nothing stops the government from coming out with welfare schemes for the victims," said Kuldip Singh Bhogal, Convenor of the All India Riot Victims Relief Committee.

Bhogal said "the riot victims had met Manmohan Singh when he was the Finance Minister in Narasimha Rao government. He had helped get grants for the widows sanctioned. We hope that he would now also be able to get justice done for the Sikh community." "We will also urge him to pardon the loans which were given by these widows by the government. According to official records, around 18,000 people were given loans (called grants at that time) by the government," he said.

However, he says the most important issue as far as the Sikh pride is concerned, remains the issue of justice.

"Nanavati Commission has almost completed its work. The new Prime Minister, rather than setting up another Commission, as has been the practice with successive governments, should make the findings of Nanavati Commission public." "The appointment of a Sikh Prime Minister has raised lot of hopes ... all eyes are now set on him," says Bhogal.

HC-SAJJAN

HC issues notice to Sajjan Kumar in 1984 riots case

NEW DELHI, MAY 17 (PTI)

The Delhi High Court today issued notice to newly-elected Congress MP Sajjan Kumar on a revision petition by the relative of a victim challenging his acquittal and nine others in the 1984 anti-Sikh riot case.

A Bench comprising Justice D K Jain and Justice A K Sikri sought reply from the senior Congress leader and fixed the next date of hearing for July 17.

Meanwhile, CBI today filed its reply to justify nine-day delay in challenging the trial court order

acquitting Kumar and others in the case.

Earlier, during the last hearing, the Additional Solicitor General K K Sud had informed the court that he would file the affidavit with additional materials on the issue.

Kumar, along with some local Congress leaders, was tried for allegedly leading a mob that killed and looted Sikhs in Outer and western Delhi.

The Sessions Court on December 23, 2002 had acquitted Kumar in the case on the ground that CBI failed to prove charges that he actually led the mob which killed about 50 Sikhs in an outer Delhi area following assassination of Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984.

CBI has challenged his acquittal stating that the trial court erred in acquitting the accused as it considered statements of prosecution witnesses before various Inquiry Commissions.

The High Court has already summoned trial court records.

The appeals filed by eight riot victims and the Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) against the acquittals will also be taken up along with the CBI's appeal.

HC-BHAGAT

HC dismisses petition against Bhagat in riots case

NEW DELHI, APR 20 (PTI)

The Delhi High has dismissed a revision petition against the acquittal of former Congress MP H K L Bhagat for his alleged involvement in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots after prosecution informed that he could appear before the court as he was suffering from advanced stage of Dementia (brain disease).

Justice R S Sodhi dismissed the petition of Darshan Kaur whose husband was killed in the riots after prosecution submitted that the bailable warrant issued against Bhagat could not be executed as he was suffering from a brain disease and medical certificate clearly indicates that he was not fit to appear in the court.

The court said since Bhagat was suffering from a disease of acute memory loss, the petition against him was not maintainable.

The warrant was returnable for April 19.

Kaur had challenged the acquittal of Bhagat by the trial court for the riot related case. Her husband was killed in the riot that occurred in Trilokpuri area of East Delhi. She had alleged that the senior Congress leader had instigated the mob.

HC-SAJJAN

CBI to file additional affidavit in 1984 riots case

NEW DELHI, APR 6 (PTI)

CBI today told the Delhi High Court that it would file an additional affidavit to justify the nine-day delay in challenging the acquittal of senior Congress leader Sajjan Kumar and nine others in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case.

A Division Bench of Justice D K Jain and Justice A K Sikri, which asked Additional Solicitor General K K Sud to justify the delay in instituting the appeal, adjourned the case to May 17 after the ASG said CBI would like to place on record some additional material on this point.

Earlier, the court had on December 16 last issued notices to Sajjan Kumar and nine others on CBI's plea for condonation of delay in challenging their acquittal by the trial court in the anti-Sikh riots case in which the former MP was tried for allegedly having led a mob that killed and looted Sikhs in outer Delhi area.

Additional Sessions Judge Manju Goel had on December 23, 2002 acquitted Kumar in the case on the ground that CBI failed to prove charges that he actually led the mob which killed about 50 Sikhs in an outer Delhi area following assassination of Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984.

According to the CBI, Kumar and others were wrongly acquitted in the case by the trial court. "The trial court has erred in acquitting the accused as it considered statements of prosecution witnesses before various Inquiry Commissions," Sud had submitted before the court.

The High Court has already summoned trial court records. The appeals filed by 8 riot victims and the Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) against the acquittals will also be taken up along with the CBI's appeal.

NANAVATI

Cong leaders put pressure on cops to release 84 riots accused

NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (PTI)

A senior police officer today told the Nanavati Commission, probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots that several local Congress leaders had pressurised the police to release the persons arrested for rioting and looting in central Delhi.

Deposing as a witness, ACP Ranbir Singh, who was then posted as SHO Karol Bagh, said the then Congress MP Dharam Dass Shastri and other leaders had come to the police station to get released those persons arrested for rioting and looting on November 5.

He said some top police officers including Joint Commissioner of Police Amodh Kanth, who was then the DCP (Central District) and the then Additional Commissioner of Police H C Jatav were present in the police station when the leaders had come there.

Singh, who was cross-examined by the counsel of Shastri said the leaders had shouted at him and Kanth for arresting 72 persons in connection with rioting and looting.

Kanth, who also deposed as witness endorsed the incident referred by Singh and also placed on record a copy of the report which he had submitted to the Police Commissioner on the riots that occurred after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Kanth said there were some disagreement between him and Jatav during the incident.

The one-man Commission headed by Justice G T Nanavati had issued notice to Shastri under the Commission of Inquiry Act asking him to produce evidence in his defence.

NANAWATI

NCM chief urges Nanawati panel to submit report soon

NEW DELHI, JAN 28 (PTI)

National Commission for Minorities Chairman S Tarlochan Singh has urged the Nanawati Commission going into the 1984 anti-Sikh riots to submit its report soon as the "Sikh

community is feeling restless" over the delay.

In a letter to Justice G T Nanavati, he said it was now a long time that the Commission had taken up the case on the demand of the community because "no justice has been done in this large-scale massacre of innocent people inspite of various commissions and enquiry committees appointed earlier by the Government".

Observing that long delay negates the very purpose of giving justice to the victims, he said "the ugly incident of 1984 is a blot on the fair fare of our system and unless the guilty are properly punished and the conspirators are exposed, this stigma will very much stand".

NANAVATI

Kamal Nath denies instigating mob in 84 riots

NEW DELHI, JAN 15 (PTI)

Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath today filed an affidavit before the Nanavati Commission, probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, saying he was around the Rakab Ganj Gurudwara trying to disperse a violent mob and was not instigating it.

Denying that he had led the mob gathered around the Gurudwara, Nath said "it was absolutely false" that on the instruction of Congress leaders, police fired several rounds at the place of worship..

The Congress leader said he had received information on November 1, 1984 that violence was taking place around the Gurudwara and on reaching there he was informed that Hindu men and women were forcibly taken inside the Gurudwara.

Nath said at that time the then Delhi Police Commissioner S C Tandon had also reached the spot and he was told by him (Tandon) that police would control the situation.

Contending that it was for the first time after 20 years allegations have been made against him, "especially when neither in the earlier Commission nor in any records of the Government his name has ever figured", he said he was shocked and surprised about the allegations.

Nath filed an application to cross-examine the three witnesses who had recorded their evidence against him on which the Commission fixed February 3 as next date of hearing.

Another Congress leader Vasant Sathe altogether denied the allegation that he was present near the Gurudwara when the mob went on the rampage.

He said the allegations against him were false and baseless as he was at Teen Murti.

Delhi Police Joint Commissioner Amod Kanth also filed his reply to the evidence brought against him by the witnesses.

Nath, Sathe and Kanth had been asked to file their replies to the evidence brought against them by witnesses.

The one-man Commission headed by Justice G T Nanavati had issued notices to them and others under the Commission of Inquiry Act asking them to produce evidence in their defence as it felt their reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the inquiry report.

The noticees were supposed to reply to the evidence brought against them in respect of riots that followed the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The Commission has already completed recording of evidence and is scrutinising the same before writing its report.

Nath and Sathe were alleged to have led a mob that attacked Gurudwara Rakab Ganj here while Kanth, the then DCP was accused of arresting 16 Sikhs including five minors and four women who were firing in their defence during the riots in Paharganj area.

NANAVATI

Nanavati panel grants time to Sathe, Tytler to file replies

NEW DELHI, JAN 12 (PTI)

The Nanavati Commission, probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, today granted more time to senior Congress leaders Vasant Sathe, Kamal Nath and Jagdish Tytler to file their replies to the evidence brought against them by witnesses.

Directing them to file their replies by February 16, Justice G T Nanavati asked them if they wanted to recall or re-examine any witness, they could file an application by January 15.

Kamal Nath requested the Commission to cross-examine some witnesses.

The then Congress MP from Karol Bagh Dharam Das Shastri filed his reply and sought to cross-examine some of the witnesses.

His counsel will cross-examine the three witnesses on January 29.

The Commission had issued notices to them and others under the Commission of Inquiry Act asking them to produce evidence in their defence as it felt their reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the inquiry report.

The notices were meant to reply to the evidence brought against them in respect of riots that followed the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The Delhi Police Joint Commissioner Amod Kanth, who was then the DCP, was yet to reply to the notice issued by the Commission.

The Commission has already completed recording of evidence and is scrutinising the same before writing his report.

HC-SAJJAN

HC notice to Sajjan Kr in 1984 anti-Sikh riots case

NEW DELHI, DEC 16 (PTI)

The Delhi High Court today issued notices to Senior Congress leader Sajjan Kumar and nine others on CBI's plea for condonation of delay in challenging their acquittal by the trial court in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case in which the former MP was tried for allegedly having led a mob that killed and looted Sikhs in outer Delhi area.

A Division Bench of Vijender Jain and Justice R C Jain issued notices to Kumar and the other accused asking them to file their reply within three months.

Appearing for the CBI, Additional Solicitor General K K Sud requested the court to also issue notices to the accused on the main petition challenging their acquittal but the court said it could be done only after condonation of the delay.

Additional Sessions Judge Manju Goel had on December 23 last acquitted Kumar in the case on the ground that CBI failed to prove charges that he actually led the mob which killed about 50 Sikhs in an outer Delhi area following assassination of Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984.

According to the CBI, Kumar and others were wrongly acquitted in the case by the trial court. "The trial court has erred in acquitting the accused as it considered statements of prosecution witnesses before various Inquiry Commissions," Sud had submitted before the court.

The High Court has already summoned trial court records. The appeals filed by 8 riot victims and the Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) against the acquittals shall also be taken up along with the CBI's appeal.

NANAVATI

Nanavati panel gives more time to Cong leaders for reply

NEW DELHI, DEC 9 (PTI)

Senior Congress leaders Vasant Sathe and Kamal Nath and Delhi Police Joint Commissioner Amod Kanth today sought more time to file replies to the evidence brought against them for their alleged role in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots before the Nanavati Commission while former IPS officer Gautam Kaul submitted his reply.

While Sathe and Kamal Nath have been directed to file their replies on January 12, Kanth has been asked to file reply on January 13.

The three persons failed to appear before the Commission and were represented by their advocates.

The one-man Commission headed by Justice G T Nanavati, probing the anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, had issued notice to them and 10 others under the Commission of Inquiry Act, asking them to produce evidence in their defence as it felt their reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the Inquiry report.

Kaul, who filed his reply in a sealed cover, said he could not disclose the content of his written submission, but said he had explained his position.

"I have given my explanation to the evidence of the witnesses," Kaul, who was then Additional Commissioner of Police, told reporters.

The then Congress MP from Karol Bagh, Dharam Das Shastri, who appeared before the Commission with his counsel was also granted time till January 12 to file reply to the evidence brought on record against him by the witnesses.

Other prominent noticees, who did not file their reply were the then SHO of Paharganj S S Manan and SI Hoshiyar Singh, then in-charge of police force in North Avenue.

Kamal Nath and Sathe are alleged to have led a mob that attacked Gurudwara Rakabganj here while Kanth and Manan are accused of arresting 16 Sikhs including five minors and four women who were firing in self-defence during the riots in Paharganj area.

Later, both Kanth and Manan, now an ACP, were awarded President's medal for their role in arresting them.

The Commission had yesterday directed the other Congress leaders Jagdish Tytler and Sajjan Kumar and Pondicherry IGP U K Katna and 22 other noticees to reply by January nine to the evidence brought against them on record by the witnesses.

Sajjan Kumar was acquitted last December by a trial court in a riot case.

The witnesses have alleged that Tytler and Kumar had led and instigated the mob in killing and destroying the property of Sikhs while Katna has been accused of dereliction of duty as the DCP (West) during the riots.

The other Congress leaders who have been asked to respond to the notice are Ram Chandra Nagoria, Ram Lal, Tarvinder Singh Bedi, Hardwari Lal and Brahmanand Gupta.

Notices were also issued to then ACP (North) R S Mallik and SHO Mongolpuri R S Dahiya, who is now posted as ACP (Crime).

The Commission has already completed recording of evidence and is scrutinising the same before writing its report.

NANAVATI

Nanavati Commission asks noticees to reply by Jan 9

NEW DELHI, DEC 8 (PTI)

The Nanavati Commission, probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, today asked senior Congress leaders Jagdish Tytler and Sajjan Kumar and Pondicherry IGP U K Katna and other noticees to reply by January nine to the evidence brought against them on record by the witnesses.

The Commission headed by Justice G T Nanavati had issued notices to them and 23 others under the Commission of Inquiry Act asking them to produce evidence in their defence as it felt their reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the Inquiry report.

The noticees were today supplied with the materials and were directed to reply to the evidence brought against them in respect of the riots that followed the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Asked to comment on the evidence which has come against him before the Commission, Tytler said "it is all concocted story and evidence is completely fabricated".

"Everything against me is politically motivated," Tytler, who was accompanied by his advocate R K Anand, said.

"This is the first time my name has been mentioned (before the Commission) after 18 years," he said claiming that neither an FIR nor any police official ever visited him in connection with the riots which followed the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

Sajjan Kumar, acquitted last December by a Trial Court in a riot case, was represented by his counsel, who said "we have to go through the document before commenting on the issue".

The witnesses have alleged that Tytler and Kumar had led and instigated the mob in killing and destroying the property of Sikhs while Katna has been accused of dereliction of duty as the DCP (West) during the riots.

The other Congress leaders who have been asked to respond to the notice are Ram Chandra Nagoria, Ram Lal, Tarvinder Singh Bedi, Hardwari Lal, Brhmanand Gupta and Nathu Pradhan.

The notices were also issued to then ACP (North) R S Mallik and SHO Mongolpuri R S Dahiya, who is now posted as ACP (Crime).

The Commission has already completed the recording of evidence and is supposed to issue notices to all those persons whose reputation, in its opinion, was likely to be prejudicially affected by the Inquiry.

Earlier, senior Congress leader Vasant Sathe and Kamalnath, and Delhi Police Joint Commissioner Amod Kanth, who were issued notices by the Commission, have been asked to reply by December 12 to the evidence brought against them by the witnesses.

The then Congress MP from Karol Bagh, Dharam Das Shastri and the then Additional Commissioner of Police Gautam Kaul were other prominent noticees.

SC-RIOTS

SC lambasts Centre for withdrawing anti-Sikh riot cases

NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI)

Taking strong exception to a Delhi Police decision to withdraw a 1984 anti-Sikh riot case, the Supreme Court has lambasted the Centre saying on one hand it was appointing Commission after Commission to go into the riots and on the other it was trying to withdraw cases.

"What is this - on one hand you go on appointing Commission after Commission to probe the riots and on the other you withdraw the case registered by police," a Bench, comprising Justice S Rajendra Babu and Justice G P Mathur, said on Friday dismissing an appeal filed by Delhi Police Commissioner.

The appeal was filed challenging a Delhi High Court order which had set aside a trial court order allowing prosecution to close an anti-Sikh riot case, in which it was alleged that supporters of Congress leader Haracharan Singh Josh had allegedly fired in the aftermath of the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi resulting in the death of a person.

The police, which came under the control of the Union Home Ministry, contended that a high-level committee headed by the Home Secretary had taken a decision in 1989 to withdraw certain cases.

It was contended before the apex Court that it would help maintaining the communal amity in the city and such cases which were old and no substantial evidence was available on record should be withdrawn.

This angered the Bench, which observed "somebody has committed a murder and you are saying that you will not prosecute him on the ground that it will help maintain communal harmony?" The Centre has so far appointed Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission, Jain-Banerjee Commission and now Justice G T Nanavati Commission to probe into the riots.

Referring to this, the Bench said the Centre was appointing Commission after Commission to probe the riots and here is the decision to withdraw a riot case.

"This is a perfect example of proverb 'rock the cradle and pinch the baby' policy. You rock the cradle when the baby is crying and when the baby stops crying, you pinch it to make it cry," the Bench observed.

When the Bench said it would not interfere with the High Court order setting aside the trial court's decision to accept the prosecutor's plea to close the riot case, Additional Solicitor General R N Trivedi said the High Court had observed that the application for closure of the case was made by the prosecutor without applying his mind.

Trivedi said let the prosecutor apply his mind afresh and if a case of closure was made out on

merit he should be given the liberty to file a fresh application in that regard.

The Bench, while dismissing the appeal filed by the Commissioner of police, said the option of fresh closure application was always available to the prosecutor.

NANAVATI-NOTICE

Sajjan, Tytler, Katna issued notice by Nanavati panel

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 (PTI)

The Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, has issued notices to 25 persons including senior Congress leader Sajjan Kumar and Jagdish Tytler and Delhi Police Joint Commissioner U K Katna asking them to produce evidence in their defence.

Justice G T Nanavati issued notices to them under Section 8-B of the Commission of Inquiry Act asking them to reply by December 8 as their reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the Inquiry report.

The notices were issued to those persons and police officials against whom the witnesses from north and west Delhi gave evidence on record, Commission's official A K Chaturvedi said.

The witnesses have alleged that Tytler and Kumar had led and instigated the mob in killing and destroying the property of Sikhs while Katna has been accused of dereliction of duty as the DCP (West) during the riots.

The other Congress leaders who have been asked to respond to the notice are Ram Chandra Nagoria, Ram Lal, Tarvinder Singh Bedi, Hardwari Lal, Brhmanand Gupta and Nathu Pradhan.

The notices were also issued to then ACP (North) R S Mallik and SHO Mongolpuri R S Dahiya, who is now posted as ACP (Crime).

The Commission has already completed the recording of evidence and is supposed to issue notices to all those persons whose reputation, in its opinion, was likely to be prejudicially affected by the Inquiry.

NANAVATI

Nanavati Commission asks noticees to reply by Dec 12

NEW DELHI, NOV 10 (PTI)

The Nanavati Commission, probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, today asked senior Congress leaders Vasant Sathe and Kamal Nath and Delhi Police Joint Commissioner Amodh Kanth and other noticees to reply by December 12 to the evidence brought against them on record by the witnesses.

The Commission on October 28 had issued notices to them and 11 others under the Commission of Inquiry Act asking them to produce evidence in their defence as it felt their reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the Inquiry report.

The noticees were today supplied with the materials and were directed to reply to the evidence brought against them in respect of the riots that followed the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Asked to comment on the evidence which has come against him before the Commission,

Sathe told reporters that "I have just got the materials and I have to go through it." However, his counsel and party MP R K Anand was quick to add that "everything has been politically motivated".

Anand, appearing as counsel for Kamal Nath accepted the materials on his behalf.

The then Congress MP from Karol Bagh, Dharam Das Shastri and the then Additional Commissioner of Police Gautam Kaul appeared before the Commission.

About the evidence against him, Kaul said there has been a small mention about him in the statement of a witness regarding an incident around Rakabganj Gurudwara. "I will clarify them to the Commission," he said.

Kanth failed to appear before the Commission.

Others who appeared before the Commission were the SHO of Paharganj K K Manan and SI Hoshiyar Singh, then in-charge of police force in North Avenue.

Kamal Nath and Sathe are alleged to have led a mob that attacked Gurudwara Rakabganj here while Kanth and Manan are accused of arresting 16 Sikhs including five minors and four women who were firing in their defence during the riots in Paharganj area.

Later, both Kanth and Manan, now an ACP, were awarded President's medal for their role in arresting them.

The one man Commission headed by Justice G T Navati, has already completed recording of evidence and is scrutinising the same before writing his report.

However, the commission is supposed to issue notices to all those persons whose reputation, in its opinion, was likely to be prejudicially affected by the Inquiry.

NANAVATI-NOTICE

Kamal Nath, Sathe, Amod Kanth and 11 others issued notices

NEW DELHI, OCT 28 (PTI)

Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots today issued notices to 14 persons including senior Congress leaders Kamal Nath and Vasant Sathe and Delhi Police Joint Commissioner Amod Kanth asking them to produce evidence in their defence as it felt their reputation was likely to be "prejudicially affected" by the Inquiry report.

Justice G T Navati also issued notices under Section 8-B of the Commission of Inquiry Act to the then MP from Karol Bagh Dharam Das Shastri and six others besides the then Additional Commissioner of Police Gautam Kaul, then SHO Paharganj K K Manan and SI Hoshiyar Singh, then in-charge of police force in North Avenue.

All the Section 8-B noticees have been asked to appear before the Commission on November 10.

Kamal Nath and Sathe are alleged to have led a mob that attacked Gurudwara Rakabganj here while Kanth and Manan are accused of arresting 16 Sikhs including five minors and four women who were firing in their defence during the riots in Paharganj area.

Later, both Kanth and Manan, now an ACP, were awarded President's medal for their role

in arresting them.

Justice G T Nanavati, who has already completed recording of evidence, is scrutinising the same before writing his report.

However, the commission is supposed to issue notices to all those persons whose reputation, in its opinion, was likely to be prejudicially affected by the Inquiry.

HC-SAJJAN

CBI challenges Sajjan's acquittal in 1984 anti-Sikh riots case

NEW DELHI, JUL 11 (PTI)

The CBI today challenged the acquittal of senior Delhi Congress leader and former MP Sajjan Kumar and nine others in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case in which he had allegedly led a mob that killed and looted Sikhs here.

A Division Bench of Justice Usha Mehra and Justice Pradeep Nandrajog, which condoned the delay in filing the appeal against the acquittal order, summoned trial court records and posted the matter for August 19.

Appearing for the CBI, Additional Solicitor General K K Sud submitted before the Bench that the trial court had erred in acquitting the accused as it considered the statements of prosecution witnesses before various Inquiry Commissions.

Section 6 of the Commission of Inquiry Act prohibits the use of statements made before it in any other proceeding, Sud said and stressed that the scope of a Commission's inquiry is restricted to its terms of reference and hence a statement by a witness before it may not be relevant for a criminal trial.

Eight riot victims and the Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee filed separate appeals against the acquittal through their counsel Satinder S Gulati. These appeals have been transferred by Justice J D Kapoor to the Division Bench.

Additional Sessions Judge Manju Goel had on December 23 last acquitted Kumar in the case on the ground that CBI failed to prove charges that he actually led the mob which killed about 50 Sikhs in an out Delhi area following the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984.

CBI had registered the case against Kumar on a complaint by one Anwar Kaur, who had lost her husband in the riots. But surprisingly, she contradicted her own statements during the trial leading to the acquittal of the accused.

Anwar Kaur had alleged that on November 1, 1984, Kumar held a meeting near a Gurudwara in Sultanpuri area in West Delhi and instigated the mob to kill male members of Sikh community and to loot their property as Gandhi's assailants belonged to that community.

Kumar had been charged with rioting, spreading communal disharmony, insitigating the mob to murder and loot the Sikhs.

During the examination-in-chief, Kaur had named Kumar as being present in the mob which killed her husband Nevin Singh. But in the cross-examination, Kaur said she had named him as police had said that he was in the mob and she herself had not seen him, the trial court had observed.

"There is no other eye witness apart from those mentioned," court had said adding that "other

evidence in the case is poor".

Besides Kumar, those acquitted in the case were Jai Kishan (former Congress MLA), Udal Singh, Brahma Nand Gupta, Shishram, Jai Bhagwan Gupta, Peeria Ram, Hanuman Prasad, Satyaveer Singh and Mahender Singh Yadav.

Three other accused in the case Nathu Pradhan, Islam and Rajendra Singh died during the trial.

CABINET-NANAVATI

Nanavati Commission gets six-month extension

NEW DELHI, MAR 25 (PTI)

The Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots has been given yet another six-month extension.

The Union Cabinet which met this evening decided to give extension to the Commission till October two this year, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj told reporters.

This is the fifth extension given to the Commission whose term was to expire on April 2, 2003.

Swaraj said that the Commission had informed the Government that it was in the process of writing the draft report, which was expected to be ready by April this year and that it needed six more months to come out with the final report after completing all other formalities.

After writing the draft report, the Commission would issue notices under Section 8(b) of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 to those persons whose reputation was likely to be adversely affected.

The Commission would give an opportunity to the Section 8(b) noticees to be heard and prepare a supporting list of statements and written submissions before submitting the final report.

The Commission was set up by the Centre on May 8, 2000 to probe the anti-Sikh riots that broke out in Delhi and other parts of the country following the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984.

WIDOWS

1984 widows threaten self immolation

CHANDIGARH, FEB 11 (PTI)

Some women who lost their husbands in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots today threatened self-immolation in New Delhi this month to protest government's "failure" to give them jobs and compensation for damage to their properties.

They told reporters here that the then government had assured them jobs, compensation for damage, including houses and monthly pension, but none of the promises were fulfilled.

Lamenting none of the persons involved in the riots had been punished, they said two of them would immolate themselves on February 16.

This would be repeated in future also, they said.

KHURANA

Khurana meets PM, DPM over Sajjan's acquittal

NEW DELHI, DEC 26 (PTI)

Playing the Sikh card ahead of the crucial Assembly polls next year, Delhi BJP President Madan Lal Khurana today met Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his Deputy L K Advani and urged them to direct the CBI to challenge the verdict of a city court acquitting Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in a 1984 anti-Sikh riot case.

Khurana also submitted to the leaders a copy of the representation of the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee which demanded their immediate intervention in the matter.

On December 23, a Delhi court had acquitted the former MP and 16 others in a case registered by the CBI, citing lack of circumstantial evidence to connect him with the offence. The agency had charged Kumar with spreading communal disharmony, rioting, instigating the mob to murder, loot and murder.

In the memorandum, the committee had termed the acquittal of Kumar as "shocking and hurting" and urged that an appeal against the verdict should be filed in an appropriate court.

Anti-Sikh riots: Widows demand CBI probe

NEW DELHI, DEC 25 (PTI)

A group of women widowed in the anti-Sikh riots of 1984 today protested the acquittal of former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a riots case and demanded a CBI probe into the carnage in which more than 2700 people were killed in the capital.

Demanding death penalty for the perpetrators of the pogrom, the women protesting under the banner of Widow Jatha said they would approach the international community if they were denied justice.

"I lost 12 members of my family in the carnage and want the accused to be hanged till death for the crime," Jatha President Darshan Kaur said. "If they are not punished we will appeal to the international community for justice," she added.

The protestors, including members of All India Shiromani Akali Dal (Babbar), also held a demonstration here and burnt effigies of Kumar and former Union Ministers H K L Bhagat and Jagdish Tytler.

Alleging that Delhi Police had carried out a shoddy probe because of which the accused went scot-free, SAD (Babbar) President Gurcharan Singh Babbar asked, "How can one expect a fair probe into the case when the investigating agency (Delhi Police) was itself involved in the crime?" Stating that it was the State's duty to provide evidence for the massacre, Babbar said, "it is a failure of the Central government that even after 18 years of the pogrom, not a single arrest has been made in the case".

He also said that it was wrong to term the pogrom as "riots". "It was a well planned genocide by the Congress party," he alleged and added Sikhs and Hindus can never fight as they have same roots.

COURT-SAJJAN-REAX

Sajjan delighted with verdict, Sikh blames DP for

acquittal

NEW DELHI, DEC 23 (PTI)

Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar today expressed happiness over his acquittal in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case by a Delhi Court while Sikh community blamed the Delhi Police for carrying out the investigation dishonestly.

While Kumar delightfully told reporters that he had full faith in Indian judiciary, senior advocate H S Phoolka, who represented the families of victims of the riots in the Nanavati Commission, blamed the Delhi Police for Congress leader's acquittal in the case saying the cops did not carry out the probe "honestly".

"The dishonest investigation by Delhi Police came as hurdle in conviction of Kumar," Phoolka told PTI.

He alleged that the Delhi Police came to the rescue of former MP as two inspectors, who were investigating officers in the case, deposed as defence witnesses and in their deposition they had told the court that they had investigated the case thoroughly and Kumar's name had not come.

He said the case was sent to CBI as it was alleged that Delhi Police was favouring the former MP.

"We will take up the matter with CBI and ask them to file an appeal in the High Court," Phoolka said.

Advocate R M Tewary, who appeared for CBI in the case said he will go through the judgement and ask the state to go for an appeal if possible.

Reacting to the verdict, he said "witnesses do turn hostile. There are 101 reasons and reasons are known to everybody. Sometimes they are persuaded and sometimes they are purchased and sometimes threatened and so many things like promises ... all that is part of the game".

COURT-LD SAJJAN

Sajjan Kumar, 16 others acquitted in '84 riots case

NEW DELHI, DEC 23 (PTI)

Former Delhi Congress MP Sajjan Kumar was today acquitted in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case by a city court which held that the prosecution had failed to prove charges that he had led a mob which killed and looted Sikhs in the capital.

"There is no circumstantial evidence to connect the accused with the offence," Additional Sessions Judge Manju Goel said acquitting Kumar and nine others in the case registered by CBI for their alleged role in the anti-Sikh riots in outer Delhi in the aftermath of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination.

The court also acquitted seven others in a related case which was probed by the Delhi Police. However, Kumar was not an accused in that case.

Today's acquittal sets Kumar, former MP from outer Delhi free from all cases in connection with the riots. He has already been acquitted in two other riot cases.

CBI had registered the case against Kumar on a complaint by one Anwar Kaur, who had lost

her husband in the riots.

She had alleged that on November 1, 1984, Kumar held a meeting near a Gurudwara in Sultanpuri area in West Delhi instigating the mob to kill male members of Sikh community and to loot their property as Gandhi's assailants belonged to that community.

The agency had charged Kumar with spreading communal disharmony, rioting, instigating the mob to murder, loot and burn the Sikhs.

Rejecting the CBI case, the court said statements of Anwar Kaur contradicted the charges against the accused.

"Her statements in examination in chief and later during the cross-examination are contradictory," the court said adding that "the prosecution story on the meeting is also not proved".

The court said the contradictory statements of Kaur "destroy" the prosecution evidence in the case.

During the examination-in-chief, she named Kumar being present in the mob which killed her husband Nevin Singh.

But in the cross-examination, Kaur said she had named him as police had said that he was in the mob and she herself had not seen him, the court observed.

"There is no other eye witness apart from those mentioned," the court said adding that "other evidence in the case is poor".

Besides Kumar, those acquitted in the CBI case are Jai Kishan (former Congress MLA), Udal Singh, Brahma Nand Gupta, Shishram, Jai Bhagwan Gupta, Peeria Ram, Hanuman Prasad, Satyaveer Singh and Mahender Singh Yadav.

Three other accused in the case Nathu Pradhan, Islam and Rajendra Singh had died during the trial.

Suresh Chand, Zile Singh, Hari Om, Omprakash, Ganga Ram, and Mangal Singh were acquitted in the case registered by the Delhi Police. Asla Singh, another accused in the case had died during the trial.

Delhi Police had charged them with the murder of more than 50 Sikhs, rioting, arson and looting in Sultanpuri area.

However, the court said "prosecution has failed to prove the offences and there are material contradictions in statements of the witnesses".

SAJJAN

Sajjan Kumar acquitted in 1984 riot case

NEW DELHI, DEC 23 (PTI)

Congress leader Sajjan Kumar and all other accused in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case were on Monday acquitted by a Delhi court for lack of evidence.

Kumar said that the verdict proved that he was innocent. Additional Session Judge Manju Goel acquitted all the accused in the case saying the prosecution has failed to produce enough evidence to link Kumar and other accused to the killing of Sikhs in the aftermath of

the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984.

The case against Kumar was instituted on a complaint by one Anwar Kaur, who alleged that a mob instigated by him had killed her husband in the Sultanpuri area in West Delhi on November 1, 1984, a day after Gandhi's assassination.

CBI, which probed the case, had chargesheeted Kumar and twelve others - Nathu Pradhan, Brahmanand Gupta, Udal Singh, Shishram, Jai Bhagwan Gupta, Peera Ram, Hanuman Prasad, Satyaveer Singh, Mahender Singh, Islam, Rajendra Singh and Jai Kishen - on December 22, 1994.

The Court said that the prosecution has failed to prove the commissioning of the offence by Kumar and others and observed that there were serious contradictions in the statements of the witnesses produced by the investigating agency.

NANAVATI

Anti-Sikh riots probe report likely by March 31

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 (PTI)

Justice Nanavati Commission, probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, has completed recording of evidence and is likely to submit its report to the Government by March 31 next year.

"I will soon start writing the report as all necessary evidence relating to the riots have been recorded and the written submissions have been submitted by parties-concerned," said Justice Nanavati, who is heading the one-man Commission probing into the riots that shook the national capital in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination.

He said after recording preliminary findings about the nature of lapses against officials and involvement of other persons on appreciation of evidence, they would have to be issued notices under Section 8(b) of the Commission of Inquiry Act so as to give them a chance to defend themselves.

After hearing these officials and persons and taking into account their defence, the final report would be written, he added.

CABINET-NANAVATI

Nanavati Commission's term extended

NEW DELHI, SEP 26 (PTI)

The tenure of the Nanavati Commission set up to probe certain aspects of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots has been extended by another six months.

This was decided by the Union Cabinet, an official spokesperson told reporters here after the meeting.

The term of the Commission, which was to have expired on October two, will now end on April 2, 2003.

"The Government hopes that the task of the Commission, which has got four extensions, will be completed by that time," she said.

The Centre had set up the Commission on May 8, 2000.

NANAVATI

Police, administration were ill prepared during riots: GOC

NEW DELHI, JUL 30 (PTI)

The civil administration and police were ill prepared to curb violence against Sikhs in the aftermath of the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the then General Officer Commanding of the Delhi area Maj Gen J S Jamwal told the Nanavati Commission today.

"The impression that was gathered regarding the conduct of the police, was that they were not ready for the disturbances on such a large scale," Jamwal told the Commission probing the events leading to the anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Gandhi on October 31, 1984 that left over 2,700 dead.

Deposing as a witness before the Commission, Jamwal described as "baseless" the claim by the then Police Commissioner S C Tandon before the Commission that only 19 companies of the Army were provided to assist the civil administration against a demand for 70.

On November 2, 1984 six brigades of the Army comprising 72 companies were in the capital, Jamwal said adding they were deployed in areas identified by the police.

Referring to the Police Commissioner's statement that the GOC had refused to meet him, Jamwal said he was personally assured by the Lt Governor that the Commissioner would get in touch with him if and when Army assistance was required.

The army troops were stationed on borders of Delhi to prevent unruly elements from coming into the capital, as soon as he was informed of the incidents, Jamwal said.

"Army deployment helped restore peace and order considerably," Jamwal said adding "the forces had to fire only six rounds during the course of the riots".

NANAVATI

Civil authorities were "unwilling" to deploy Army: A S Brar

NEW DELHI, JUL 29 (PTI)

Civilian authorities were "unwilling" to deploy army to restore order in the capital in aftermath of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Brigadier A S Brar, the then Commandant of the Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre in Delhi told the Nanavati Commission today.

Alleging there was laxity on part of the authorities to stem the violence that followed the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984, Brar said "the GOC Delhi area was in touch with the civil authorities, but the cause of non-deployment was due to unwillingness of civil authorities." "The troops were not judiciously used where they were needed most", said Brar deposing as a witness before the Commission probing the events leading to the riots.

"I do not know whether this was because of the failure of the civil authorities to bring to the notice of the GOC, the areas of major violence," he added.

"The troops were sent to areas where there was little violence," Brar submitted adding "they were not utilised where they were needed most." Recalling that he was directed to disperse a mob which had collected in the Sadar Bazar area on November 1, the retired Army officer

said the job was trivial.

However, he said, Palam Village, where there were major incidents of violence was not brought to his notice.

Brar also said that while going to Janak Puri from Sadar Bazar, he "observed civilians with lathis standing along with police personnel on both sides of the road.

"I did not stop there as the police was present and this area was not assigned to me," he added.

CELL

Cell to monitor payment of compensation to 1984 riot victims

CHANDIGARH, JUL 20 (PTI)

The Haryana Government has constituted a cell to monitor the payment of compensation to the victims of the November 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

A spokesman of the Home Department said here today that the cell, set up under Chairmanship of Financial Commissioner and Principal Secretary, would ensure that the compensation of Rs 3.5 lakh to the next of kin of those persons killed in Haryana during the riots, was released by September this year.

He said the amount already paid as ex-gratia to the next of kin would be deducted from this compensation amount.

NANAVATI-RAO

Rao denies charges of indifference in curbing anti-Sikh riots

NEW DELHI, JUL 4 (PTI)

Denying charges about his indifference as Home Minister to curb the anti-Sikh riots in 1984, former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao has submitted before the Nanavati Commission that he fully discharged his duties and was never indifferent to the situation.

"At no point of time was I indifferent in any way. There was never any question of callousness on my part. During the whole period, I never avoided to talk to any important person. I remained in touch with the authorities continuously and gave them information received as well as necessary instructions," Rao said in his written submissions before the Commission probing the riots, which erupted following the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

"Despite my deep sorrow at the death of the late Prime Minister, I was fully conscious of my onerous duty and left no stone unturned in the full discharge of duty," he said.

He said at the time of incident, there was no Minister for External Affairs and he was to help in receiving foreign dignitaries at Teen Murti House but his duty as Home Minister continued to remain his primary concern.

"This was never called in question all these years at any time. Any such attempt at insinuation after the lapse of such a long time could only be an afterthought without any basis or iota of

truth," Rao said.

Several witnesses before the Commission had alleged that Rao's attitude was "indifferent" and cold when they approached him to take measures to curb the riot.

Rao said after Rajiv Gandhi assumed office as Prime Minister and the cabinet was sworn in, discussions were held about the possible happenings in the wake of public announcement of Indira Gandhi's death and preparedness to meet such contingencies.

"The cabinet gave general clearance to the steps that would need to be taken, including imposition of curfew, deployment of police personnel and also using army units in whatever manner it was required. The Prime Minister endorsed all the suggestions," he said.

Rao said he remained in touch with the administration and police and whenever any complaint was received, it was promptly passed on to the Commissioner of Police.

He said when a memorandum containing several suggestions was received from a delegation, it was duly accepted and sent to the Commissioner, with personal instructions.

Rao said the Prime Minister had visited the affected areas on the night of November one and he also personally visited one of the big camps where the affected persons were taken.

Rao said he held talks with the inmates for a long time in the afternoon and gave on-the-spot instructions for providing them with various facilities.

HC-RIOTS

HC raises five-fold compensation to 1984 riot victims

MUMBAI, JUN 5 (PTI)

Mumbai High Court today enhanced from Rs 5000 to Rs 25,000 the compensation awarded to the relatives of victims of 1984 communal riots that occurred in Maharashtra in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination ordering the authorities to settle the claims within eight weeks.

The judgement was delivered by Chief Justice C K Thakker and Justice Ranjana Desai on a public interest litigation filed by Rajya Sabha MP S S Ahluwalia, who urged for Rs two lakh compensation to each of the riot victim's family.

The judges ordered district collectors of Ahmednagar, Jalgaon and Akola to invite claims from the kins of the victims through advertisements in newspapers and settle them within two months.

In Maharashtra the riots had occurred in Kopergaon, Bhusawal and Akola in which nine persons, including three Sikhs, were killed.

Ahluwalia had initially filed a PIL in Delhi High Court urging for high compensation to families of victims all over the country. He had cited the Ranganath Mishra commission report which indicted police for its hand in the riots.

Accordingly, the Delhi high court awarded Rs two lakh compensation to victims who were killed in the national capital on the basis of the commission report.

As regards victims in other places, the high court was of the view that the circumstances prevailing therein could be different and referred the PIL to the high courts of various states where the riots had occurred.

NANAVATI-RAO

Rao seeks more time to record statements on 1984 riots

NEW DELHI, MAY 2 (PTI)

Former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao today appeared before the Nanavati Commission of inquiry into the 1984 anti-Sikh riots for the first time and sought more time to record his statements on the violence.

Allowing the request of Rao, who was the Home Minister when large-scale carnage against the Sikhs were witnessed in the country after the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the Commission directed him to prepare his statements and file it on or before May 24.

The Commission said after going through the statements, if necessary, he would be personally heard and examined in the following week after he submits his statements.

Seeking more time to record his statements, Rao said since long time has passed, he will have to recollect the events before giving the statements and was also not aware with the format of inquiry commission and what was expected of him.

Justice G T Nanavati, Chairman of the commission, said since he was the Home Minister at the relevant time he has to clarify the steps taken at the highest level to curb the riots.

The Commission said several witnesses in their statements have alleged that when the situation had deteriorated, they approached you and requested to take steps, but your response was cold.

Rao is the last witness before the Commission and with his statements recording of evidence would be completed.

NANAVATI

Police failed to take effective steps in 84 riots; Tandon

NEW DELHI, APR 23 (PTI)

A former Delhi Police Commissioner today told the Nanavati Commission that police failed to take effective steps to curb the carnage during the 1984 anti-Sikhs riots.

"As many incidents had taken place in many areas inspite of my orders, it would mean there was a failure on the part of some officers to take effective action," S C Tandon, who was the Police Commissioner during riots, told the Commission probing the anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

He said his orders were violated by the officers as the shoot-at-sight order issued by him on November one, was not followed in several areas.

However, he said he did not try to find out why his orders were not complied with because he was busy trying to restore the law and order situation.

He admitted that reports of violence from Trilokpuri, Sultanpuri, Mongolpuri and Govindpuri, the worst affected areas, were brought to his notice only after the killings had taken place.

When asked by senior advocate H S Phoolka, representing '84 Carnage Justice Committee, a forum formed by eminent citizens to help the victims of the riot, if action was taken against the guilty officers, he said he cannot say if any action was taken against any SHO except the one

in Trilokpuri who was transferred.

Tandon said he had not received any intelligence report on the likelihood of violence on October 31.

On the meeting with the Prime Minister at the latter's residence in the evening on November 2, Tandon said the same was called following complaints by MP's that Police Control room was not responding to calls.

"I informed him this was because there were only 15 lines in the control room, hearing which the PM passed orders to increase their number", he added.

NANAVATI

'Reports by SHO's showed discrepancies in the number of dead'

NEW DELHI, APR 19 (PTI)

A senior police officer today conceded before the Nanavati Commission that large-scale discrepancies were noticed in the number of deaths reported from west Delhi localities during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

U K Katna, Joint Commissioner of Police said he had not found the SHO's report convincing in view of the media report on the massacre.

"There were large discrepancies in reports filed by SHO's of Nangloi, Sultanpuri and Mongolpuri on the number of deaths in the area," Katna, who was the DCP (West) during the riots, told the Commission probing the carnage following the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

He said he had asked the ACP to verify the reports filed by the SHO's on the death of the Sikhs and the inquiry report, which came at the end of November put the figures at 101 for Nangloi, 127 for Sultanpuri and 69 for Mongolpuri.

The reports of SHO's had put the toll at eight, 32, and 19 for Nangloi, Sultanpuri and Mangolpuri respectively.

Katna said he had taken the matter immediately with the Police Commissioner about the discrepancies in reports of death but said he did not recollect if he had recommended any disciplinary action against the SHO's.

He denied he had received any intelligence report on the possibility of disturbances in his area following the assassination. "There was no intelligence report and so no preventive arrest was made," he said.

The first report of any disturbance in the area came around 10 AM on November 1, he said adding he had promptly rushed to the place -- a Gurudwara in Bhagwandas Nagar -- where there was an exchange of fire between Hindus and Sikhs.

NANAVATI-MARWAH

Ved Marwah deposes before Nanavati Commission

NEW DELHI, APR 4 (PTI)

Manipur Governor Ved Marwah today deposed before the Nanavati Commission probing the

1984 anti-Sikh riots which followed the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Marwah, who headed a Committee to probe the police failure in controlling the riots which claimed around 3000 lives in the capital, was examined about the nature and progress of the inquiry, Commission sources said.

Due to security reasons, media was not allowed to attend the proceedings of the Commission.

The Manipur Governor was appointed as Additional Commissioner of Police after the riots and was entrusted with the inquiry.

However, the report was not finalised after completing the material work because the then Government had appointed Justice Rangnath Mishra Commission to probe the riots.

Marwah had earlier deposed as a witness before the Mishra Commission.

Former Prime Minister P V Narasimha, who was the Home Minister during the riots has been asked by the Commission to depose before it on May two.

NANAVATI-RAO

Rao summoned by Nanavati Commission

NEW DELHI, MAR 7 (PTI)

Former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao has been summoned by the Nanavati Commission to appear before it as a witness in the inquiry into the anti-Sikh riots in 1984.

Issuing summons to Rao, who was the Home Minister when riots claimed lives of thousands of Sikhs, the Commission asked him to depose before it on April 18.

The application to issue summons to Rao was moved by advocate N S Bawa, on behalf of '1984 Carnage Justice Committee', a body formed by eminent citizens representing the victims of violence.

The Commission probing the anti-Sikh riots following the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi also issued summons to M M K Wali, who was the Home Secretary in October 1984, asking him to depose on April 16.

The application submitted that the deposition of Rao and Walli was vital in the interest of justice as they were responsible for taking effective measures to control the unprecedented violence against the Sikhs during that time.

NANAVATI

No arrest for attack on gurudwara during '84 riots: ex-SHO

NEW DELHI, FEB 27 (PTI)

No preventive arrest was made when a mob had set on fire a gurudwara in a West Delhi locality, in which five persons were burnt alive during 1984 anti-Sikh riots, a police official today submitted before Justice G T Nanavati Commission.

The then Naraina Police Station SHO Vijay Malik told the Commission that no "preventive arrest was made during the incident though police had fired nine rounds in the air to quell the

violent mob." Malik said despite the firing by the police no one from the mob was injured.

Malik was cross-examined as a witness by the Commission to know the role of police during the riot in Naraina area.

A mob, which had gathered near the gurudwara a day after the assassination of Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984, had set on fire the gurudwara in Naraina in West Delhi.

The Commission was set up by the NDA government to probe the riots afresh after two earlier panels failed to pin-point the culprits.

Nearly 3,000 Sikhs were killed in the city during the riots after the assassination of Indira Gandhi by her two Sikh security guards at her official residence.

NANAVATI

Nanavati Commission summons Marwah, former LG, CP

NEW DELHI, FEB 19 (PTI)

The Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots has summoned Manipur Governor Ved Marwah to depose before it as a witness as he had held an inquiry in the capacity of a senior police officer about the role of police during the carnage.

The Commission has also summoned the then Lt Governor P G Gavai, city Police Commissioner S C Tondon and Major Gen J S Jamwal, who was GOC, Delhi area.

The four has been summoned by the Commission following an application by senior advocate H S Phoolka representing '84 Carnage Justice Committee, a voluntary body formed by eminent citizens to represent the victims of violence.

The application sought recording of their evidence as witnesses before the commission stating their statement would be important for the purpose of inquiry as they were holding pivotal official position during the riots.

While Tondon has been asked to appear on March 5, Marwah, who was the Additional Commissioner of Police in 1984 has been asked to depose before the Commission on March 7.

The Commission has fixed March 14 and 18 for recording the evidence of Major Gen Jamwal and Gavai respectively. New Delhi, Feb 19 (PTI) The Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots has summoned Manipur Governor Ved Marwah to depose before it as a witness as he had held an inquiry in the capacity of a senior police officer about the role of police during the carnage.

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The Commission has fixed March 14 and 18 for recording the evidence of Major Gen Jamwat and Gavai respectively.

NANAVATI

Anti-Sikh riots were politically engineered massacre: Kishwar

NEW DELHI, FEB 6 (PTI)

The 1984 anti-Sikh riots were "politically engineered massacre" masterminded by the high officials of Congress party, noted academician and editor of a magazine 'Manushi', Madhu Kishwar told the Nanavati Commission today.

"It was the opinion of a vast number of victims and investigative reporters with whom I interacted that high officials of the Congress (I) had masterminded the massacre with the help of anti-social elements and police", she told the Commission probing the riots after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"These patronised goondas were required to carry out well planned programme. The truck loads of hoodlums which were earlier being routinely mobilised by Congress for political rallies and processions were now put together with the same ease for organised violence, murder and rape against a peaceful section of our civil population," Kishwar, deposing as a witness, said.

Stating that properties worth thousands of crores were systematically looted and burnt in Delhi and other parts of the country, she claimed that she along with some Manushi colleagues had visited the worst affected areas and saw the the carnage at first hand, photographed the destruction and tape recorded several first hand accounts of atrocities committed on the Sikh community.

"That during that period, I personally interviewed several people who were subjected to heinous crimes including gang rapes. I personally recorded their statements and interviews and published them in Manushi," she said.

Kishwar, a noted feminist said that numerous victims she interviewed gave graphic accounts of the atrocities committed on their husbands, sons and brothers, which they were compelled to witness before being sexually assaulted in public.

Alleging that police attitude was "indifferent" during the riots, She said she had received reports from the victims that police did not record the names of the political big-wigs and known accused in the complaint and refused to register FIR against them.

"Even in my neighbourhood, I saw the police look away indifferently while gangster went on a looting and burning spree," she said adding that "like many others, I am convinced that the police and investigating agencies were under order from high-ups to block all avenues of justice for victims".

Kishwar said it was clear from the behaviour of the rampaging mobs that they were not acting out of grief or anguish at the death of prime minister Indira Gandhi as they were enjoying the looting and burning spree.

NANAVATI

Cong leaders were hostile during 84 riots: witness

NEW DELHI, FEB 5 (PTI)

Alleging that the 1984 anti-Sikh riots were instigated by the Congress leaders, advocate Kamini Jaiswal today told the Nanavati Commission that those who volunteered to save the Sikhs and their property were met with "great hostility" from them.

Deposing as a witness before the Commission, she said the riots victims had informed that local Congress leaders including H K L Bhagat and Tajdar Babbar had led the mob which attacked the Sikhs in east Delhi colonies, where remains of burnt bodies were witnessed by a group of Supreme court lawyers who had volunteered to rescue the people in distress.

"We witnessed horrendous sights of petrified women and children huddled up together at certain places and remains of burnt bodies with tyres burning and remains of large scale loot and carnage," Jaiswal told the Commission probing the anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

Jaiswal alleged that a person named Padam Sharma who had identified himself as the DPCC (I) President tried to mislead the advocates when they were going to a Gurudwara to help the hiding Sikhs by saying that "nothing was wrong".

But the group did not believe him, she said adding that when they reached Gurudwara, they found anxious Sikhs eagerly waiting to know about the members of their family who could not manage to escape from their houses.

"We volunteered to rescue those people but when we tried to do that, it was met with great hostility and violence from the very persons namely Padam Sharma etc, who had met us earlier and we were attacked with iron rods, stones and stick and asked to go back immediately," Jaiswal said.

Jaiswal said they had met the then Home Minister P V Narasimha Rao and apprised him about the merciless and brutal killings of Sikhs in the city but to the shock of the lawyers, he responded only by saying that he would look into the matter.

When asked by Delhi Police counsel whether she personally saw the incident of attack on the Sikhs, she said she had not personally seen any incident of attack on first two days but on November three, she witnessed her neighbour's house being attacked by a mob.

But her Sikh neighbour who was a brigadier had fired in the air by his service revolver and the mob escaped, Jaiswal said.

Another witness, Sewa Singh, who lost his son during the riots said they had to take refuge at a Mosque in west Delhi when armed hooligans went looting and burning their houses.

Singh said police initially refused to register their complaint, but later on repeated request they accepted one such complaint and few months after the riots they restored him some of his looted goods but he never got back 50 tollas of gold looted in the riots.

Another victim, Harminder Singh alleged that police equipped with fire arms remained mute spectator when mob was killing and burning the property of the Sikhs in west Delhi.

Accusing police of inciting the mobs, he said his uncle and two other persons were burnt alive by the mobs and police also fired towards Gurudwara building instead of saving the Sikhs.

NANAVATI

Police was biased against Sikhs in 1984: witness

NEW DELHI, FEB 4 (PTI)

Police adopted totally a biased approach towards Sikhs during the 1984 riots in which nearly 3,000 people belonging to the community were killed in the capital, a witness told Justice Nanavati Commission probing the carnage after the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

Narrating the alleged police excesses at Tilk Nagar in west Delhi, Ravinder Singh told the Commission that a team headed by the then area SHO J C Sharma had on November 2, 1984 not only lathicharged a group of Sikhs in the locality "without any reason but also entered our houses, dragged us out and started beating us." "We were a group of six persons whose houses were barged in by the police and all of us were beaten," Singh alleged.

"After that, all of us were taken to the Tilak Nagar Police station and were beaten up there again mercilessly with our hands tied. Arm of my brother Harjit Singh was broken and my other brother Tarvinder Singh was beaten with an iron chain," he claimed.

After this a "false case" of rioting and various other offences under Indian Penal Code was registered against all the six persons, he said, adding they were later remanded to Tihar Jail, from where they were released on bail after about two weeks.

NANAVATI

Top police officer ignored Sikhs request in 84 riots: witness

NEW DELHI, JAN 31 (PTI)

A victim of 1984 anti-Sikh riots today alleged before the Nanavati Commission that a top police officer ignored the request of Sikhs who had sought police help to protect their lives and property in north Delhi.

Jasbir Singh Bawa, whose house was looted, said the then Additional Commissioner of Delhi Police H C Jatav had come to Sabzi Mandi locality and Sikhs had pleaded for police deployment to maintain law and order but he left the place "without doing anything." "We narrated him (Jatav) the entire incident and pleaded that policemen must be posted there to maintain law and order but he left the place without doing anything," Bawa in his testimony as a witness told the Commission probing the anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

He also accused Jatav of letting off the culprits who were apprehended for indulging in violence during the riots.

Bawa said when he lodged the FIR about the looting of his house, police told him that they know the culprits and his household effects would shortly be restored to him.

But police failed to get his goods back and request to top officers to take necessary action against the guilty policemen was never taken seriously, he alleged.

"Everytime false promises are made and nothing has till date been done," he alleged.

NANAVATI-NAYYAR

Army "purposely" not called in 84 riots: Nayyar

NEW DELHI, JAN 30 (PTI)

Army was "purposely" not called to deal with the mob during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots which resulted in largescale carnage, eminent journalist and Rajya Sabha MP Kuldeep Nayyar today alleged before the Nanavati Commission.

He said an army officer whom he had met after the riots had told him that he was waiting for the order for deployment of force, but "purposely" he was not called.

However, the army officer Gen Jamwal, GOC, Delhi, at that time "did not disclose the purpose," Nayyar, who deposed as a witness before the Commission probing the anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, said.

Claiming that various Commissions constituted to probe the anti-Sikh riots had not investigated into the nexus between the police and politicians on the riots, he said government also had not taken action against those persons who were responsible for the killing of Sikhs.

Nayyar said government had done great harm by not taking prompt action to prohibit the killings during the riots and thereafter by not punishing any politician or guilty persons.

The Rajya Sabha MP said after the riots he had met President Giani Zail Singh who had expressed his helplessness about the riots saying no information about the riots were sent to him and whatever reports he received was through media and friends.

Nayyar claimed that President had even told him that he was kept in total darkness regarding Operation Blue Star and he came to know about it when army had already entered the complex.

NANAVATI

Cong leaders led mobs in 1984 riots, says former Governor

NEW DELHI, JAN 24 (PTI)

Former Karnataka Governor Govind Narayan today told the Nanavati Commission that prominent Congress leaders including H K L Bhagat, Jagdish Tytler and Sajjan Kumar had led the mobs which killed Sikhs and destroyed their properties during the 1984 riots.

"In the trans-Yamuna area, the victims said that it was Bhagat who led the mob. Similarly in south Delhi and other areas it was Sajjan Kumar and Tytler who led the mob in killing the Sikhs and destroying their properties," he told the Commission probing the anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Narayan, a former Defence Secretary said he had sought appointment from Rajiv Gandhi but he did not get any response from him.

He said as a member of Citizens' Commission, which was formed by prominent people to investigate the anti-Sikh riots, he visited several riot affected areas and found that the houses of Sikhs were specifically marked for destruction.

NANAVATI-MALKANI

Malkani charges against govt, police on anti-Sikh riots

NEW DELHI, JAN 22 (PTI)

Senior BJP leader K R Malkani today accused the government of having put into operation a contingency plan to deal with the Sikhs during the 1984 riots and charged police with spreading anti-Sikh rumours to create fear psychosis.

Deposing as a witness before the Nanavati Commission, he claimed that the plan was evolved when the Punjab problem was at its height.

"I think whatever happened after October 31 was the contingency plan of the government," he told the Commission probing the anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Malkani said he had given a manuscript of his book -- The Sindh Story -- to one Kripalani, the then Deputy Director of RAW for his perusal, which was also gone through by former director of intelligence agency R N Kao in the summer of 1984.

He claimed that Kao during discussions told him that he apprehended some serious problems from Sikhs and thought that at some stage Sikhs might start killing Hindus. "But I did not believe him at that time and I told him so," he added.

"Since this had come from Kao, I thought this should not have been said by him as this could be government's thinking as well," Malkani said adding that he also believed that "in view of this apprehension, government had devised contingency plan to deal with the situation if it happened".

The former Rajya Sabha MP claimed that he was told by senior journalist Shyam Khosla and Krishna Lal Maini, who was then an ex-minister that Rajiv Gandhi was heard saying to his officials to teach lessons to Sikhs.

NANAVATI

1984 anti-Sikh riots were organised: witness

NEW DELHI, JAN 17 (PTI)

The 1984 anti-Sikh riots were "organised" and police "played a dubious role" as the Sikhs were killed and their properties looted in a systematic manner in the capital, a social worker today told the Nanavati Commission.

"Listening to the tales of the widows, presenting memorandum and appeals,... it drives us towards the conclusion that to a certain extent the violence was organised," Jaya Shrivastava, Convenor of Nagrik Ekta Manch (NEM), told the Commission, probing the anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"Most colonies were attacked at about the same time, means of killing and arson were readily available and in most cases police played a dubious role," she said.

Describing the scenes and misery that confronted her after the riots, Shrivastava said Lajvanti Kaur of Nanaksar Ashram had lost 18 members of her family and she came across 25-years old Jarnail Kaur who had five little girls to feed without an earning member in the family.

The social worker said when her son had asked police to drive away the rioters in New Friends colony, they had expressed their helplessness.

Another witness, Surinder Singh, Head Granthi of Gurudwara Moti Bagh alleged that the then Congress MP Jagdish Tytler had led the mob and incited them to burn the Gurudwara and kill the Sikhs.

He said the mob killed two workers of the Gurudwara. One Badal Singh, who was a sewadar in the Gurudwara died after a burning tyre was put around his neck.

He said those who managed to save themselves from the rioters were later rescued by Muslim neighbours in the night.

NANAVATI

Law enforcing agency was inactive in 84 riots: Verghese

NEW DELHI, JAN 16 (PTI)

Total inaction on the part of law enforcing agencies during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots led to large-scale violence and destruction of properties belonging to Sikhs in the capital, former editor of a national daily today told the Nanavati Commission.

"If law enforcing agencies had taken prompt action and army called in at an early stage, the riots could have been controlled," B G Verghese, the then editor of Indian Express told the Commission, probing anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Deposing as a witness, he said his correspondents deployed throughout the city came out with the information that there was "total inaction" on the part of the law enforcing agencies to curb the riots.

Verghese said the subsequent statement of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi that "when a big tree falls, the earth shakes", gave the impression that the reaction of government at the initial stage was to "let the riots go on for sometime".

Another witness Kishandev Singh, who lost his son in the riots, said that Congress leader Sajjan Kumar was "leading the mob which was involved in largescale violence and killing of Sikhs in Palam colony of Delhi".

He said the mob led by local leaders after beating his son with rods had thrown a white powder like substance on him while he was being burnt alive.

"My son died in the street in great torture. Seeing him writhing in pain, these people were laughing and dancing," Singh said.

NANAVATI-GUJRAL

84 anti-Sikh riots was organised: Gujral

NEW DELHI, JAN 15 (PTI)

Former Prime Minister I K Gujral today told the Nanavati Commission that the 1984 anti-Sikh riots were an "organised" act and no efforts were made to arrest the culprits who were indulging in looting and burning the properties of Sikhs in the capital.

"From what I had seen and heard, it appeared to me that the riots were organised, particularly so when many persons had participated in it and it (riot) was spread through out the city," Gujral, deposing as a witness told the Commission, probing the riots after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

He said on November 1, when he was going to apprise the then Home Minister P V Narasimha Rao about the situation in the city, he could see "there was no effort to arrest those people who were looting and burning the properties of the Sikhs, nor anybody trying to control the riots".

The former Prime Minister said he had met Rao twice and during the talk with him it appeared that the Home Minister did not know in details what was happening in the city as he was busy most of the times receiving the foreign dignitaries who were visiting Delhi to attend the funeral of Indira Gandhi.

Rao himself had told me that police was facing difficulty in controlling the crowd that had assembled around Teen Murti Bhavan, where Indira Gandhi's dead body was kept for public to pay their tributes, Gujral said.

He said when he had asked Delhi's Lt Governor P G Gawai to call the army he had replied that "if army was called, there would be panic".

Gujral said on November one when he had contacted President Zail Singh by telephone and told him about the attack on Sikhs, "he advised me to visit the affected areas and even asked me to contact the government." "I considered it very odd that the President had asked me to do this (to contact government)," he told the Commission.

He said on November four he and the then Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh had decided to meet Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to speak about the riots. "Unfortunately, it never came through," he added.

Gujral said he along with former premier Chandrashekhar had visited the refugee camps in trans-Yamuna region to assess the relief provided to the victims and there they had come to know that some persons were instigating the mob.

"People at the refugee camp would tell me about some persons leading the mob," he said without naming anyone.

Narrating such incident, Gujral said a mob had attacked the house of a Sikh, Jagmohan Singh Kochar, then member of Delhi Corporation, who thwarted their attempt by firing in air. Later Kocher told him that he could identify four persons in the mob who were his colleague, but did not give any specific name, he said.

He said house of another Congressman named Musafir belonging to a popular political family from Punjab was attacked by a mob led by a local goon as he was a Sikh.

Gujral said when he was moving around in the capital to help the victims, his car was also stopped by the mob at several places and hooligans would allow the vehicle to move only after ascertaining that there was no Sikh inside.

NANAVATI-YADAV

Govt's attitude was indifferent during 84 riots: Yadav

NEW DELHI, JAN 13 (PTI)

Union Minister Sharad Yadav today charged the then administration with "indifferent" attitude and "no determined efforts" to curb the violence during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots leading to the killing of Sikhs and destruction of their property in the capital.

"We met the then Home Minister P V Narasimha Rao twice on November one and discussed with him the prevailing situation. I felt that Rao was indifferent as he did not respond to our request to take steps to curb violence in the city," Yadav, deposing as a witness told the Nanavati Commission, probing the anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

He said during the riots "we noticed that administrative machinery entrusted with maintaining the law and order situation was avoiding its responsibility and not responding to the task

facing it".

The Minister said the fact that when military moved into the city, all the incidents of violence stopped and mobs disappeared shows that earlier "no determination was shown by the administrative machinery to curb the violence".

He said it appeared that the entire administration was "paralysed".

Narrating in detail about the riots, Yadav said he and former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh had gone to hospital to inquire about Indira Gandhi and while returning they saw President Giani Zail Singh's car being stoned by a mob.

"When the car of President was attacked on Oct 31, police and government should have anticipated the anger of people and taken steps to prevent any violent incident," he said.

NANAVATI-MALHOTRA

Cong failed to take step to curb 84 riots: Malhotra

NEW DELHI, JAN 10 (PTI)

The then Congress government did not take any constructive step to curb the anti-Sikh riots in 1984, while terming the efforts of his party to protect Sikhs as anti-national, senior BJP leader Vijay Kumar Malhotra today told the Nanavati Commission.

"As we were helping the Sikhs, the Congress leaders were telling that BJP was doing anti-national activity by helping the Sikhs, responsible for terrorism in Punjab," he told the Commission probing the anti-Sikh riots in the aftermath of assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Deposing as a witness before the Commission, Malhotra said "because of the Congress propoganda against the party, BJP lost all the seats in the election." He said Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani had met the then Home Minister P V Narasimha Rao asking him to take prompt steps to control the riots, but when they did not receive satisfactory reply from him, BJP decided to defend Sikhs and their properties in the capital.

Malhotra said he himself had met President Giani Zail Singh, who expressed his helplessness and asked him to do whatever he and his party could do to protect the hapless Sikhs.

The senior BJP leader said the government had not announced the correct figures of death and when after a detailed survey, Vajpayee came out with the statement that the actual figure was 2,800 as against the official 350, Congress described his statement as "anti-national" saying "it would give bad impression about the country to outside world.

Malhotra said Vajpayee had told the party workers that he was aware of the consequences of Congress propoganda, but had asked them to continue with the humanitarian measures in national interest.

He said he first came to know about the brutal killing of Sikhs at the Railway Station where he had gone to receive his wife on November 1 and saw a Sikh standing on the door of a compartment shouting that his family members were killed by a mob in the train.

He said later his wife also told him that mob had stopped the train in Shahadra and picked Sikhs and burnt them.

Malhotra said request to Delhi Lt Governor and Jt Police Commissioner to control the riots fell on deaf ears.

Stating that riots were well planned in the city, he said the mobs were attacking those houses which were marked and belonged to the Sikhs.

One such marked house was near his official residence where he saw the mob moving around, Malhotra said, adding the Sikh family was saved by his security personnel.

NANAVATI

Crucial evidence on '84 riots destroyed: Narula

NEW DELHI, JAN 9 (PTI)

Former Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court Ranjit Singh Narula today alleged before Nanavati Commission that people in high positions had tried to protect the guilty of 1984 anti-Sikh riots by destroying crucial evidence instead of punishing them.

Deposing as witness before the Commission, probing the riots after the killing of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Narula said during the proceedings of Justice Rangnath Mishra Commission, which first probed the riots, several hand written notes prepared by Ved Marwah Committee "were not taken into consideration".

Marwah Committee, a one-man Enquiry, had investigated the role of police during the riots. The handnotes prepared by the Committee were destroyed under the instructions of higher authorities, he claimed.

This fact, he said, emerged when a Citizens Commission, formed subsequently to take the issue of victims, informed the Mishra Commission that the written notes prepared by Marwah were very important and should be called.

Narula said advocate H S Phoolka, who was the secretary of the Citizens Commission had met Justice Misra in this regard and he was told that "the record of Marwah Committee had been received by the Commission, but the handwritten notes prepared by Marwah have been destroyed under the instruction of higher authorities".

"This is very important fact which clearly shows that the people in high positions were trying to protect the guilty by destroying crucial evidence instead of punishing them. However, there is absolutely no mention of this in the report of Justice Misra," Narula said.

The Former Chief Justice said "we were shocked to find a mention in the report of the Misra Commission that H K L Bhagat, the then Union Minister, was not guilty".

Stating that the terms of reference of Misra Commission were very limited and highly defective, Narula said "the terms of reference of this Commission were limited to see whether the violence was organised".

He submitted that Justice Misra had refused to issue section 8-B notices to anyone or to identify anyone for their role in this violence on the ground that his terms of reference did not permit him to do so.

"But it is more strange that neither guilty persons were identified nor any enquiry regarding the persons who were held guilty was held," Narula said adding that "Not Guilty Certificate" was awarded to Bhagat.

He said Citizens Committee had also decided to withdraw from the proceedings when Misra Commission had declined to supply the documents or statements of the witnesses recorded in the camera. The decision to this effect was conveyed by the former Chief Justice of India S M Sikri, who was the president of committee, he said.

Narula said after arriving from Kathmandu on November one, he had called President Giani Zail Singh and got the impression that "he (President) did not consider even himself to be free from danger if out of Rashtrapati Bhavan".

NANAVATI

Suggestions to stop riots in '84 fell on deaf ears:ex-diplomat

NEW DELHI, JAN 8 (PTI)

Former diplomat Gurbachan Singh today told the Nanavati Commission that suggestions by eminent Sikhs to then President Zail Singh to take urgent action to stop the 1984 anti-Sikhs riots fell on deaf ears.

"All our suggestions to the President met with a negative response," Singh, deposing as a witness told the Commission probing the riots in the aftermath of assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

He said he along with a Sikh delegation including Patwant Singh, the then press advisor to Zail Singh, Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh and Lt Gen (Retd) J S Aurora had met the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan on November one and "each of us in our own way attempted to impress upon him to control the situation and to prevent it from degenerating into wider anti-Sikh manifestation." Narrating police apathy during the riots, Singh said "for three days, unchecked by police there was open uncontrolled violence of the most heinous character against hapless Sikh families and their properties".

The former diplomat narrated the step-motherly treatment of the government and claimed that the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi refused to give appointment to a Citizen Commission, formed subsequently, when it sought meeting with him in December '84.

The former diplomat said then Home Minister P V Narasimha Rao and his successor S B Chavan also declined to hear the Commission which included former Chief Justice of India S M Sikri, Badr-Ud-Din Tayabji, former Commonwealth Secretary, Rajeshwar Dayal, former Foreign Secretary, Govind Narain, former Governor of Karnataka and T C A Srinivasvaradan, former Home Secretary.

Singh said he assisted the Commission which met for over a period of two months hearing the complaints of victims and most of them blamed Congress leaders, including H K L Bhagat, Sajjan Kumar and Lalit Maken, who were MPs at that time.

Deposing as a witness, a widow, who lost her husband, son and three brothers during the riots, told the Commission that Kumar was leading the mob in Palam colony.

"That I can identify the leader of the mob Sajjan Kumar, MP, because a few days back he visited our mohalla regarding water sewerage problem. Local Congress leader Mann Singh Chand and Capt. Bhag Mal were also accompanying the mob," Jagdish Kaur, who now lives in Jullander, said.

Kaur said when an army officer had dropped her at the police station the cops refused to register her complaint and she herself saw the police instigating hooligans to attack Sikhs and their properties.

She said seeing the police attitude she had to run away from the police station.

Delhi Policed counsel told the Commission that later police tried to trace her and when they could not locate her address the case was closed.

NANAVATI-PASWAN

Home Minister avoided to talk us during '84 riots: Paswan

NEW DELHI, JAN 7 (PTI)

Union Coal Minister Ram Vilas Paswan today told the Nanavati Commission that the then Home Minister P V Narasimha Rao avoided talking to some leaders when they tried to contact him for taking urgent measures to curb the anti-Sikh riots in November 1984.

"We had twice made an attempt to contact Narasimha Rao on November one and on both the occasion we were told that he was in the meeting. We carried the impression that he was avoiding us," Paswan, who deposed as a witness, told the Commission probing the anti-Sikh riots in the wake of Indira Gandhi's assassination.

He said he along with some other leaders including former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur and Sharad Yadav had gone to Rashtrapati Bhavan on November one to apprise President Zail Singh of the grim situation in the capital and urged him to speak to Narasimha Rao for taking prompt action.

But the President expressed helplessness and asked them to call on the Home Minister, Paswan said adding "when our effort failed twice, the President said he will talk to Narasimha Rao".

The Coal Minister said he had himself telephoned Rao on both the occasions, but his Private Secretary told him that the Home Minister was not available as he was busy in a meeting.

Giving details of the riots and alleged police inactiveness, Paswan said a mob had attacked his official residence at 12 Rajendra Prasad Road and burnt alive a Sikh who had taken refuge after the mob had set on fire the taxi stand near his house.

Paswan said the mob which surrounded his house had set the garage on fire and also burnt the the car belonging to Bihar Bahvan which was being used by Karpoori Thakur and a two wheeler parked in the campus.

He said the MLAs from Bihar who were at his residence told him that the mob had come from the Raisina Road side, where the office of Youth Congress is situated.

The Minister said he was told by his then private secretary Mahender Baitha, who later became an MLA, that police van had passed the road many times and one Dr P S Varma had waived it to stop when the mob was on the rampage.

He said Baitha had even told him that he had recognised many persons in the mob.

Paswan said when the mob was shouting anti-Sikh slogans and was forcing its way inside the campus, he was inside and some persons including Baitha, Varma and his security guard Joginder Prasad Singh were witness to the ugly incident.

He said his security guard fired in the air to disperse the crowd but he did not succeed as the mob was huge. "I had asked the guard not to fire on the mob when he had come to me for the advice," he added.

Paswan said after breaking two gates, the hooligans entered the rooms and to save our lives we had to jump over the wall which was near the servant quarter at the rear.

"I had to throw my two-year son from the wall into the cloth held by some persons on the ground and an old Karpooriji used the pipe to come down and got injured," he said adding that he was the last person to get out.

Paswan said the complaint about the incident at his house was filed by Baitha and he came to know about it after he came from the residence of Charan Singh.

NANAVATI

Sajjan Kumar asked mob to kill, loot in 84 riots: Witness

NEW DELHI, DEC 11 (PTI)

A victim of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots today alleged before the Nanavati Commission that former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar had instructed his party workers to kill and loot the properties of Sikhs in a south Delhi colony.

Jasbir Singh, deposing as a witness before the Commission probing the riots in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination, said Kumar had asked the local Congress leaders in Palam colony to kill and loot the properties of Sikhs.

Singh alleged on November one, when Kumar came to the colony local party leader Balwan Khokar Mohinder Yadav said they had looted and burnt the houses, at this the MP asked them to start killing the Sikhs.

A mob, led by local leaders, then killed one Nirmal Singh by setting him ablaze, Jasbir Singh alleged.

"When Nirmal Singh was beaten with iron rods, he fell down. They (mob) took off his turban and tied him with a pillar post and then set him on fire," Singh, who was present on the spot, said. He alleged Kumar who was watching the scene shouted "beat these people (Sikhs) and burn them alive".

The witness alleged that along with the mob of about 2000 people who were carrying kerosene, iron rods and chemicals, led by local leaders, were also policemen.

Another witness, Chanan Singh said the mob was carrying voters list to target Sikh houses and were calling them out by shouting threatening messages.

NANAVATI

"84 riots was state-sponsored terrorism", says retd

Brigadier

NEW DELHI, DEC 10 (PTI)

The anti-Sikh riots were "state sponsored terrorism", a former senior army officer who was commanding the Rajputana Rifles in Delhi cantonment and waited in vain for orders for his troops deployment to quell the violence after the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984, alleged today in his deposition before Nanavati Commission.

Brigadier (Retd) Amarjeet Singh Brar, who claimed that he was "unceremoniously" transferred out of Delhi soon after the riots for taking a round of the city after receiving calls for help from many areas, in his affidavit said "now I know that my biggest crime was that I was stupid enough to interfere with state-sponsored terrorism".

"I was unceremoniously posted out after one year and five months of tenure whereas my previous tenure as Brigadier Commander in field (J & K) was of three years and two months,"

Brar said alleging "the killing of Sikhs was not abruptly due to assassination of the Prime Minister but was under a well planned scheme." Brar said Lt Gen Mahipat Singhji of his regiment, who had taken up "my case" after transfer with the then Army Chief A S Vaidya in December 1984, had stated that the Army Chief had expressed his helplessness.

According to Gen Singhji, Gen Vaidya had told him that "he has orders and nothing can be done about it.... there is specific instruction from Prime Minister's office," Brar told the Commission probing the riots.

While repeated announcements were made about deployment of army on radio and TV, he "helplessly" kept on waiting for deployment of his 3,000 troops, Brar alleged.

Brar submitted before the Commission that despite his repeated queries from Headquarters of Delhi area for orders about deployment of troops as "distress" calls were pouring in at his office, no instructions were forthcoming.

He further said two other Brigadiers -- D D Madura and Inder Luthra -- who came to his office on November four told him that they were also not allowed to enter Delhi.

While he drove towards All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) via Safdarjung Enclave on Nov one, he saw burnt cars on the way and many houses were on fire and a mob of hundreds of people going around the locality, he said.

He said when the mob saw the army vehicle approaching them, they started raising slogans "but when I came out of my vehicle and shouted at them and asked them to disperse, the mob quietly melted away".

As the arson and looting continued next day and he tried to contact General Officer Commanding (GOC), Delhi area, to get his instruction, "I was told that he has gone to survey the disturbed areas".

Despite that he had evacuated certain families to safer areas and gave shelter to some others in his regiment's mess, Brar said.

During the morning briefing on November six when the GOC had asked his senior staff officer why the Commandant of Rajputana Rifles (Brar) was not present, staff officer Col R Kapoor gave him wrong information that "Rajputana Rifles centre is running its own operation of aid to civil authority," Brar said.

NANAVATI

Cong leaders instigated violence in 84 riots: witnesses

NEW DELHI, DEC 5 (PTI)

A Sikh Congress worker today alleged before the Nanavati Commission that his partymen were leading and instigating the mob in looting and burning the properties of Sikhs in Delhi while police remained a mute spectator as the hooligans went on rampage during the November '84 riots.

Harnam Singh in his testimony before the Commission, probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, said several local Congress leaders had participated in the riots and encouraged mob to loot and burn the properties of Sikhs in Palam Colony in southwest Delhi.

He said a mob led by local Congress leaders Balwan Singh Khokhar, Radhey Shyam Pandit and Jaswant Singh armed with lathis, iron bars chemicals and kerosene oil took active part in the violence.

Singh, who described himself as a Congress activist for last 25 years, said two Congressmen, Risal Singh and Mohan Singh had looted his shop and on registration of a complaint, police recovered the goods. He alleged that the goods were not returned to him.

He said that due to police inaction his neighbour was killed by a mob and his wife and a young son along with a Sikh couple who were staying in their house as tenants were burnt alive.

Singh said police remained a mute spectator when a mob looted and burnt the Gurudwara and shops in the locality. "Police did not stop the miscreants, rather they encouraged them to loot and burn Sikh shops. My daughter asked the police to prevent the miscreants from looting but they said since Sardars had killed Prime Minister, they would not be spared," he added.

NANAVATI

A Cong leader led the mob in 84 riots: Witness

NEW DELHI, DEC 5 (PTI)

A witness today testified before the Nanavati Commission that a local Congress leader had led a mob which looted and burnt properties of Sikhs in South Delhi during the 1984 riots.

Mukhinder Singh in his testimony before the Commission, inquiring into the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, said a youth Congress leader Ajay Satsangi had noted down the numbers of houses occupied by the Sikhs in Maharani Bagh and led the mob in looting and burning them.

"The mob was being led by Satsangi and was shouting anti- Sikh slogans. The mob had some kind of list and were pointing towards my house saying this house belongs to a Sikh. They broke open the lock of our main gate and looted valuables, household goods and burnt the house with some chemicals," he told the Commission probing the anti-Sikh riots.

He said he had seen Satsangi noting the houses of Sikhs in the locality and on seeing him he had reversed his car and hurriedly disappeared from the locality.

Singh said "his friend and senior advocate Kapil Sibal on November one (1984) informed him on telephone that an armed mob was marching towards his house and advised him to take shelter at a neighbour's house".

He said he along with his two minor children and ailing wife, who was on a wheel chair, moved to a neighbour's house and locked themselves in their bathroom.

Singh said from the bathroom he saw the mob indulging in looting and arson.

He said he heard the mob speaking about the house of a Sikh bank officer, which was later found to be burnt.

NANAVATI

Police, a party to lawlessness in '84, alleges Akali leader

NEW DELHI, DEC 3 (PTI)

An Akali Dal leader today alleged before the Nanavati Commission that police also participated in the chaos, lawlessness and destruction during anti-Sikh riots in south Delhi in November 1984.

Kuldip Singh Bhogal, the then General Secretary of Akali Dal Youth wing, in his testimony

alleged that Cops of Madhuban Training centre near Karnal in Haryana were sent to Delhi to create chaos, lawlessness and destruction in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination.

He said on November two, Gujjars in large number armed with lathis and iron rods had alighted from the train in Ashram area and indulged in large scale looting, arson and burning of Sikhs.

Bhogal said he along with some other Sikhs managed to catch one of them, who was later identified as a cop.

"On being caught, an identity card of Haryana police was recovered from him, which was a clear indication and evidence that the mob to which he belonged were members of Madhuban Training centre near Karnal in Haryana and they were sent to Delhi to create chaos, lawlessness and destruction," Bhogal told the Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

He said the mob burnt the Sikhs alive and threw their bodies on the railway track and when other members of the community went there to collect those they were forced back by the police.

"Three Sikh bodies were lying on the railway track and when we went to collect these bodies for their cremation, we were forced back to our houses by the police," he said.

COURT-SAJJAN

Court completes evidence against Sajjan in 1984 riot case

NEW DELHI, NOV 28 (PTI)

A city court today completed recording of evidence of all the CBI witnesses in a 1984 anti-Sikh riot case against former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar, former Delhi MLA Jai Kishan and eight others.

Additional Sessions Judge R L Chugh after completing the examination of prosecution witnesses, fixed December 19 for recording of the statements of the accused under Section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Under the provision of the Section, an accused is given last opportunity to make a statement in a criminal case. If any other witness is required to be examined, the court will consider this aspect after recording his statement before writing the judgement.

CBI prosecutor R M Tiwari, who had represented the agency in the JMM MPs bribery case, told the court that he has produced all the witnesses in the case.

According to CBI chargesheet, Sajjan Kumar had allegedly instigated anti-Sikh riots in Sultanpuri area of west Delhi on November 1, 1984 after the assassination of Indira Gandhi a day earlier by his two Sikh security guards.

The agency, which had named 12 other accused including former Delhi MLA Jai Kishan, alleged that as a result of Kumar's instigation a mob had attacked the house of one Navin Singh in Sultanpuri area and killed him by setting him ablaze after pouring kerosene on him. However, three of the accused have died, it said.

Sajjan Kumar is also charged with spreading disharmony in the society under Section 153-A of the Indian Penal Code, Tiwari said.

NANAVATI

House set on fire in presence of police in 84 riots: ACP

NEW DELHI, NOV 26 (PTI)

Admitting that the police was reduced to a by-stander during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, a senior police official today told the Nanavati Commission that a house of Sikh theatre owner was set on fire despite the area being patrolled by cops.

S M Bhaskar, ACP, Connaught Place, deposing as a witness told the Commission probing the anti-Sikh riots that the house of Sardar Swarna Singh, owner of Swarna Cinema, in east Delhi was attacked by a mob in which nine members of the Community were burnt alive.

"I was in the locality for two hours when the house was under the attack of the mob. They had set the house on fire from the back side and the police was on the front side," Bhaskar, who was SHO of Krishna Nagar during the riots, said.

He said Singh fired from the roof of his house in which one person was killed and two injured.

He, however, described the Delhi Administration report on riots about the Krishna Nagar police station as incorrect which gave the toll as 33 and said only 14 persons were killed on November one, a day after the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

Bhaskar said police had not opened fire anywhere in the locality to control the mob and no arrests were made. He added that he had received instructions from the DCP to register one FIR for each locality.

He said he had demanded additional force in his locality but no such arrangement was provided.

NANAVATI

Army action in worst affected 84 riots began late: ACP

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 (PTI)

Giving details about the steps taken by the authorities to maintain law and order during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in an East Delhi colony, a police officer today told the Nanavati Commission that army was deployed on patrol duty there only after three days.

ACP S S Rathi, who was then posted as SHO of Kalyanpuri police station, told the Commission that when he took charge on Nov 2, 1984, the violence had claimed nearly 300 lives in Trilokpuri area of East Delhi.

Describing the situation in Trilokpuri as worst, Rathi said though army had reached Kalyanpuri on Nov 2 but it was deployed on patrol duty next day.

Rathi said when he met the army officials deputed there, they stated that they were aware of the largescale killing of Sikhs in the Trilokpuri, but the army moved on patrol duty in the afternoon on the next day.

No pickets were immediately set up by the army in the area nor they had fired at any place, Rathi who was posted incharge of the police station after the suspension of the then SHO Shoorvir Singh Tyagi.

Elaborating the situation prevailing in Trilokpuri when he took round of the area after assuming charge, Rathi said dead bodies were found "scattered" in block 32 of the colony,

which had recorded maximum number of deaths in East Delhi.

While the then DCP of the area had put the toll at 152, Rathi said it was not less than 300.

NANAVATI

No arrest for five days in Yamunapuri during '84 riots: ACP

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 (PTI)

Giving an insight into the police inaction during the November, 1984 anti-Sikh riots, a Delhi Police official today told the Nanavati Commission that not a single person was arrested from the worst-affected East Delhi area during the first five days of the riots.

"No arrest was made in connection with any of the riot incidents that took place between November one to five, 1984," Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Rampal Singh told the Commission.

Singh, who is at present posted at Police Training School and was the SHO at Yamunapuri police station said only some preventive arrests were made on November 3, 1984, three days after the violence broke out.

Deposing as a witness before the panel, he said three FIRs relating to violence in his area were registered on November one but none of them were related to murder cases.

The trans-Yamuna area was the worst riot-affected where hundreds of Sikhs were brutally murdered by the rampaging mob.

As H S Phoolka, counsel for 84 Carnage Justice Committee, a voluntary body set up by some eminent people to assist the victims asked why the FIR about the killing of 50 persons on November two was registered after 11 days on November 13 in Yamunapuri area, Singh failed to give any explanation in this regard.

He, however, said as per the DCP's report only 30 people were killed till November 5 in the area.

Singh also could not explain about the discrepancy of the death toll in the area as Phoolka pointed out that Delhi Administration had put the toll at 149.

NANAVATI

Nanavati panel asks Delhi police to clarify number of deaths

NEW DELHI, NOV 19 (PTI)

Following discovery of largescale discrepancies in the official records over the number of deaths in an East Delhi locality, a day after Indira Gandhi's assassination, the Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots asked the Delhi police to go through all such documents to clarify the exact position.

The Commission's directive came when senior advocate H S Phoolka, representing the '84 Carnage Justice Committee' said that the number of deaths recorded in various official report have different figure than those stated by a witness.

Deposing as a witness before the Commission, Bhim Singh, a retired police officer said 20 people were killed in the violence that had occurred on November one in Seelampur area and only one FIR was registered on the instruction of ACP.

Singh, the then SHO of Seelampur police station during the riots said police had arrested one Sikh, who was allegedly firing upon the mob from the roof of his house and several senior police officer were present when he was arrested.

However, during his cross-examination, the retired police official expressed his ignorance about other official records which showed different figures about the number of casualties.

Phoolka said according to the police record, only 10 deaths had occurred on November one, while the Delhi Administration record showed 51 deaths in Seelampur area and an FIR mentions 60 deaths.

NANAVATI

Gujral, Dandavate, Paswan, Yadav summoned by Nanavati panel

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 (PTI)

Former Prime Minister I K Gujral, veteran Janata Dal leader Madhu Dandavate and Union Ministers Ram Vilas Paswan and Sharad Yadav along with three others have been summoned by Nanavati Commission, probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, to depose as witnesses before it.

While Gujral has been asked to appear before the panel on December three, Paswan and Yadav are summoned to depose on December 10 and January three respectively to give their accounts of incidents after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984.

Gujral has been summoned following a statement by journalist Patwant Singh stating before the Commission that despite bringing the riot situation to the notice of the then Home Minister P V Narasimha Rao by Gujral and Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora, "no activity to control the violence was noticeable".

Patwant Singh, in his statement, had said that Gujral and Aurora had personally visited Rao's residence on November one and spoken to him about the "grave" situation in the city, where nearly 3000 Sikhs were killed in the three-day-long violence.

Dandavate has been called by the Commission to give a statement about the alleged incidents in Tughlaqabad, an outskirt of Delhi, where a violent mob had stopped the train in which he was travelling and allegedly dragged out Sikh passengers and killed them.

Paswan, whose house was attacked by hooligans a day after the assassination of Gandhi, had taken a round of the capital along with late premier Charan Singh, former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, late Janata Party leader Karpoori Thakur and Yadav.

In an application moved before the Commission by "84 Carnage Justice Committee", constituted by various eminent personalities to provide justice to the riot victims, had said that despite Dandavate's frantic appeal to the Railway authorities to start the train, it was not moved and as a result several Sikhs lost their lives.

Others to whom the Commission has issued summons are: the then President Giani Zail Singh's Press Secretary Tarlochan Singh, BJP leader K R Malkani and senior advocate

Shanti Bhushan.

While Bhushan has been asked to appear on January 11, Tarlochan Singh and Malkani are asked to depose on January 16.

Carnage Justice Committee's counsel H S Phoolka in an application stated that noted author Khushwant Singh had earlier told the Commission that when he spoke to Tarlochan on phone and wanted to bring to President's notice the grave situation in the city, he replied that "the President is not in a position to do anything".

BHOGAL

Bhogal meets PM

NEW DELHI, NOV 01 (PTI)

All India Riot Victim Relief Committee (RVRC) president Jathedar Kuldip Singh Bhogal today met Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and demanded punishment for those involved in the killing of Sikhs in the 1984 riots, waiving of loans on relief and rehabilitation assistance and setting up of a national memorial for riot victims.

In a memorandum to the Prime Minister, Bhogal said while the killers of Indira Gandhi had been hanged, those who murdered innocent Sikhs were still "roaming freely".

"Not a single of those killers has been punished for the ghastly crime. It is a discrimination where authorities did not act as per law to bring these cases to a logical conclusion and killers to book," he said in the memorandum.

He said the setting up of the Nanavati Commission had kindled some hope that the criminals would be punished.

Demanding setting up of a memorial for the riot victims, Bhogal said it should be established in Delhi that suffered the most in terms of human lives and property. "This can be a consoling factor to the riot-affected families," he said

NANAVATI

Additional force not sent to control '84 riots

NEW DELHI, OCT 4 (PTI)

A Delhi Police officer today told the Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots that additional force was not made available to him to control the rampaging mobs which were involved in large scale arson and looting, a day after the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

Deposing as a witness before the Commission, Amreek Singh Bhullar, ACP (Head Quarter), said "I had demanded additional force on November one morning around 10:00 hours, but no force reached and I tried to control the mob with the limited force available with me." Bhullar, who was an SHO in Patel Nagar during the riots, said police had received 115 complaints a day after the assassination of Indira Gandhi about the arson and looting of houses, factories and shops and had tied all the incidents in one FIR.

When asked by senior advocate H S Phoolka, representing '84 Carnage Justice Committee" why only one FIR was registered he said "the decision was taken by the senior officers".

He said the then ACP had informed him that the decision was taken by the DCP (central).

The ACP said seven Sikhs were killed in the Patel Nagar area by the mob between

November 1 and 3 and police had opened fire at 11 places to control the rioters on the first three days of the riots.

NANAVATI

Nanavati Commission summons Delhi govt Chief Secretary

NEW DELHI, SEPT 25 (PTI)

The Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots today issued summons to the Chief Secretary, Delhi government and asked him to produce the documents related to the riots in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination.

The Commission issued summons to Chief Secretary after Delhi Government failed to provide the records from the Relief Commission which was requested three months ago by the '84 Carnage Justice Committee' representing the victims of the riots.

Directing the Chief Secretary to reply within two weeks, the Commission observed that "three months have passed since Delhi Government was asked to produce the documents but they have not done so".

Senior advocate S S Gandhi appearing for the Delhi Police told the Commission that he made efforts but till now Delhi Government has not produced any documents.

NANAVATI

Ambiguity creeps up in police version about '84 riots

NEW DELHI, SEPT 19 (PTI)

Different versions about whether Delhi Police opened fire to control a mob during 1984 anti-Sikh riots emerged from the police records creating a new controversy before the Nanavati Commission.

While the records showed that some senior police officer had fired in the area to control the rampaging mob, the same was not corroborated by the Daily diary maintained by the area police.

Deposing as a witness before the Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Additional SHO of Connaught Place Police Station, Anil Dureja, said "there is a record to show that ACP and DCP had resorted to firing on November 1, 1984 but there is no entry about the incident in the daily diary maintained by the police." He, however, provided the commission about the arrangements made by the police to control the mob who had indulged in large scale looting and arson in the area.

Dureja said the record showed that apart from the deployment of home guards, around fifty-five policemen were maintaining round the clock vigil then around the Connaught Place area.

Asked whether police had taken any step on receiving the information that a mob was looting and burning the properties around Imperial Hotel, Dureja said according to the record police had gone to the spot but did not find the crowd.

"Police found some people moving here and there," he said adding no arrest was made from that vicinity on November 1.

NANAVATI

Police had not fired on the '84 rioters on Nov 1

NEW DELHI, SEPT 12 (PTI)

A Delhi Police official today told the Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots that the records did not show that police had opened fire at the mob in the Connaught Place area, a day after the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

Deposing as a witness before the Commission, Anil Dureja, SHO, Connaught Place said "as per the records, Police had not fired at any place on November 1 in the area. Nor do I have knowledge of lathicharge or lobbing of teargas".

He said there is also no record to show that any person was injured in police action.

Dureja said police had received information of arson and looting of shops belonging to Sikhs in the Connaught Place area and accordingly they had acted but no arrest was made on November one. He said record shows that four persons were arrested on the second day and one had already been convicted.

When senior advocate H S Phoolka representing '84 Carnage Justice Committee' asked Dureja that several incident of arson and looting happened in front of police, he denied saying that no such incident had occurred in front of police.

On firing and looting of shops and properties of Sikhs at Regal Building, Mohan Singh Place, Marina Hotel and a taxi stand near Imperial Hotel, he said police force had rushed to the spot but the mob had already dispersed from the area.

To this reply Phoolaka alleged police had acted in an irresponsible manner. He said fire at Marina Hotel had lasted for several hours but they did not bothered to bring it down.

He alleged though 114 complaints of arson and looting of shops on November one were lodged, police remained silent.

NANAVATI

Police got info from Vajpayee's residence about mob attack

NEW DELHI, SEPT 11 (PTI)

A Police Officer today told the Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots that information was received from the Raisina Road residence of Atal Bihari Vajpayee that a Taxi stand was set on fire opposite his house as well as the residence of Ramvilas Paswan was attacked by the mob.

Deposing as a witness before the Commission, T S Bhalla, ACP (Crime Branch), who was then SHO of Parliament Street, said "he had reached the spot and found that fire was at a taxi stand opposite his (Vajpayee's) residence and mob had already dispersed".

When senior advocate H S Phoolka, representing '84 Carnage Justice Committee' asked Bhalla whether Vajpayee had come out of the house to disperse the mob, he replied "I do not know about this".

The ACP also said it was correct that the residence of Paswan at Rajendra Prasad Road was attacked and an old Sikh whom he had given protection was burnt alive in the garage.

"It is correct that Paswan's house was attacked and an old Sikh was burnt alive. A car and

scooter belonging to him were also burnt," Bhalla said.

He said as per the record, Paswan had given protection to an old Sikh who was injured in a mob attack at the taxi stand near his house. According to the FIR, he had saved him from the mob and his security guard had fired seven to eight rounds to disperse the mob.

When asked whether the police had information that Paswan ran out from the rear door of the house to save his life, otherwise he would also have been attacked, the police officer said "I do not know about this".

NANAVATI

No record about the arrest of bad characters during 84 riots

NEW DELHI, SEP 6 (PTI)

A Delhi Police official today told the Nanavati Commission probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots that there were no records about the arrest of "bad characters" in the Mandir Marg Police Station during the first week after the assassination of Indira Gandhi on October 31.

"The file does not contain any record whether persons of bad character were arrested between October 31 and November 4, 1984," Mandir Marg Police Station SHO Mahinder Singh said while appearing before the Commission to verify the police records.

The Panel had summoned Singh to verify the records on an application by a Committee of certain eminent citizens pursuing the cases of riot victims before the Commission.

The 'November 84 Carnage Justice Committee' had alleged that despite several cases of looting and arson in the jurisdiction of Mandir Marg Police Station, only one FIR was registered by the police.

Singh also said record do not contain any report of police resorting to firing and lobbing tear gas shells. There is no record of lathicharge on the mob, he said.

When senior advocate H S Phoolka, appearing for the Committee, asked Singh whether any person was arrested in connection with looting of the shops and houses owned by Sikhs in the area, the SHO said the record shows that some persons were arrested and goods were recovered from them.

Asked whether police made any effort to find out who had left the looted goods on the roads and park, he said it was not possible for him at the moment to say anything on it.

Singh also said the records do not show that police had ever made announcement that no action will be taken against those who will put the looted goods on roads and parks.

NANAVATI

Police accused of not registering FIR during '84 riots

NEW DELHI, SEPT 5 (PTI)

A Committee formed by prominent citizens to pursue the cases of 1984 anti-Sikh riot victims before the Nanavati Commission, today accused police of not (not) taking any steps to register FIRs in connection with different incidents in Mandir Marg Police Station area.

The 'November 84 Carnage Justice Committee' told Justice G T Nanavati Commission that

only one FIR was registered in the Mandir Marg Police Station though complaints about several incidents of arson and looting of shops were lodged with it in the first week of November 1984 after the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

"Despite the fact that 23 complaints were recorded in the police station, only one FIR was registered," Senior advocate H S Phoolka, appearing on behalf of the Committee said.

Mandir Marg Police Station SHO Mahender Singh, who appeared as a witness to verify the police records on the incidents, admitted that only one FIR relating to the riots was registered between October 31 and November four.

Singh said the FIR was about the looting of a liquor shop owned by the Delhi Tourism Department at Bhagat Singh Marg in which 13 persons were arrested.

He said the shop was looted in the intervening night of November 1-2, 1984 by breaking the locks and the complaint was filed by one N Banerjee, who was Marketing Manger in Department.

During investigation other facts came to light and prohibitory orders were imposed, the SHO said after verifying the records. He said the case diary shows that statement of 35 persons were recorded in this connection.

When Phoolka asked the SHO to throw some light on a Sikh named Swarna Singh, about whom a message was received in the Police Station that he was lying injured in front of Lady Harding Medical Hospital, the police officers said according to the record a Sub-Inspector had visited the spot but he couldn't able to trace him.

The Sub-Inspector in his report had said he had met a person named Satish on the spot who gave some statement with regard to the incident.

According to the record, Singh was working as a foreman in Railways and Satish, a driver had gone to drop him but were attacked by the mob of 20-30 persons who pelted stone on their Tempo. Thereafter Singh escaped.

The record said Satish refused to lodge complaint regarding the incident and police made efforts to locate Singh. He, however, was untraceable, the SHO said.

NANAVATI

Police request Nanavati Commission not to summon its officers

NEW DELHI, SEPT 3 (PTI)

Delhi Police today requested the G T Nanavati Commission probing 1984 anti-Sikh riots that it should not summon individual police officials and permit them to produce "official documents" an examine the witnesses.

"...Before summoning the police officials, the Hon'ble Commission be pleased to permit the police to produce official records and examine the witnesses," Delhi police said in a reply to the application seeking summoning of certain senior police officials who were posted in the capital during the riots.

The Commission had issued notices last month to Centre and Delhi Government asking them to reply within two weeks after the 'November 84 Carnage Justice Committee, representing the victims had supplied the list of some former and present police officers including Ved

Marwah, now posted as Governor of Manipur, and requested for their summoning.

Other officers whose names were mentioned in the list included the then Commissioner of Police S C Tandon, Additional Commissioners of Police H C Jatav, Gautam Kaul, Nikhil Kumar and Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) Sewa Dass, Amod Kanth, B K Gupta, U K Katna, Chander Parkash and Maxwell Pereira.

Asking the Commission to form its opinion with regard to summoning of individual police officers, Delhi police said that several of its officers had been subjected to enquiry and investigations by various Commissions and proper action had been taken in consequence to that.

Delhi Police said before directing the summoning of any police official named in the application, the Commissioner should consider "whether the officers named are entitled to be treated as persons governed under Section 8 B of the Commission of Enquiry Act, 1952".

According to Section 8 B, the commission should give notice to a person against whom it is likely to give findings.

However, senior advocate H S Phoolka representing the victims of the riot said Police cannot take this objection in general for cover up of all officers.

"It is for the individual police officer who is summoned by the Commission to take this objection that he cannot be forced to be a witness as notice under section 8 B is likely to be issued against him," he said.

Phoolka said since the witnesses of five districts had been examined, the Commission can consider the summoning of police officers who were posted there during the riots.

To this, the Commission listed the application for hearing on Thursday. The officers whose names figured in the list included the then Additional Commissioners of Police Jatav, Kaul and three DCPs Das, Kanth and Gupta.

Meanwhile, a Sub Inspector, who deposed as a witness said only one FIR was recorded between November 7-14 in the Mandir Marg Police Station.

SI Raj Kumar, who is posted as a legal officer, said police had registered an FIR in respect of an attack on a liquor shop at Bhagat Singh Marg and subsequently 13 persons were arrested and later released on bail. He said chargesheet was forwarded against all of them on December 10, 1984.

Delhi Police also placed before the Commission several records related to the police action during the riots including the place and number of cops deputed at several places in the city.

However, Commission was not satisfied with the manner in which the documents were placed and deferred the hearing till Wednesday.

NANAVATI

IO says there were several lapses in 84 riots investigation

NEW DELHI, AUG 29 (PTI)

A Sikh Investigating Officer (IO) into the 1984 riots today told the Nanavati Commission of inquiry that several lapses were committed at the initial stage of riots by police and they even discriminated against him while allotting arms.

Harbans Singh, a retired Sub Inspector, who deposed as a witness before G T Nanavati

commission of inquiry probing the sequence of events leading to anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Indira Gandhi, said "police had committed several lapses and no effort was made to apprehend the culprits in the beginning".

"I found that there were many lapses in the police investigation. No site plan had been prepared by the previous IO and no recovery was made and only incomplete statements had been recorded," Singh, who was given the charge of investigation a month after the riots in East Delhi, said.

Blaming his predecessor for making no efforts to apprehend the culprits after their names were revealed by the victims, the retired police officer said he tried his best and arrested 20 accused in the case.

"I arrested the accused after the investigation was handed over to me. I tried my best to make recoveries, but as lot of time had elapsed, I could not do much," Singh said.

He said when the riot broke out on October 31, the SHO instructed all officers present in the police station to get arms and ammunition but he was denied.

"All the officers were given arms and ammunition, but the Head Constable refused me. Even my junior officers were given arms and ammunition but I was not given," he said.

NANAVATI

Dead bodies were thrown in Yamuna, says victim of 1984 riots

NEW DELHI, AUG 7 (PTI)

A victim of 1984 anti-Sikh riots today told the Nanavati Commission that several dead bodies were thrown in River Yamuna as police remained a mute spectator to rampaging mobs killing Sikhs.

"The dead bodies were thrown in river Yamuna. Some people who were still breathing were also loaded in trucks and thrown in Yamuna," Bakshish Kaur, a widow said before Nanavati Commission of Inquiry probing the sequence that led to anti-Sikh riots after the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

She said a mob had entered her house in East Delhi and killed her husband with a kirpan lying at the home by cutting him into three pieces.

Police, which was present and seeing all these, did not extend any help, she said.

Like other victims, Wazir Singh who appeared as a witness, blamed former Union Minister and Congress leader H K L Bhagat of instigating the mob to kill Sikhs.

He said Bhagat had held meeting with the local Congress leaders on October 31 and given instruction to kill Sikhs.

Another victim Phul Kaur said the rioters threatened to disfigure her face by throwing acid when she ran to protect her father-in-law who was killed by the mob.

She said there was no option left for her as the mob threatened to kill her two minor daughters also.

NANAVATI

84' riot victims contradict police report

NEW DELHI, JUL 19 (PTI)

Two 1984 anti-Sikh riots victims, whose tyre shops were burnt by the mobs at Rani Jhansi Road, today found the police report prepared during investigation of the case contradictory to what had actually happened.

Deposing before the Nanavati Commission of Inquiry, probing the events of the riots after assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, witnesses Harvinder Singh and Bodh Raj contradicted the report in the FIR that police had come there on time and had arrested 41 people and even opened fire to disperse the mob on November two, 1984.

The two witnesses stated that about 16 to 17 shops were burnt by the irate mob and till evening no police personnel had arrived at the spot.

The shop of Bodh Raj, who does not belong to the Sikh community, was burnt as it was in the row of the shops belonging to the Sikhs.

When counsel S S Gandhi, representing the Delhi police, suggested to the witnesses that police had reached spot and opened fired to disperse the mob and even arrested 41 people there, the two witnesses said when police did not reach the spot till evening there was no question that attempt was made to disperse the mob.