



# Did they fire at Qasab? PMO wants to know

By Akela | Posted 17-Nov-2010

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## After their juniors said that two gallantry awardees of the RPF were not present at CST during 26/11, Prime Minister's Office asks for an inquiry

After they have been given gallantry awards for their handling of Qasab and his accomplice at CST on 26/11, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has ordered a high-level inquiry into whether Senior Inspector Sandip Khiratkar and Sub-inspector Kiran Bhosale of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), were actually present at CST.



A RPF personnel stands ground after Ajmal Qasab and his accomplice Ismail fired shots at CST railway station

The two RPF personnel had earlier claimed that they had fired 40 rounds on terrorists Ajmal Qasab and Abu Ismail at CST on 26/11, which drove the two terrorists out of CST.

Khiratkar and Bhosale received police medals for gallantry and Rs 5 lakh each for their bravery.

The PMO has advised the RPF to take necessary action if the two are found guilty of fudging records to show they were present.

Earlier, during a sting operation carried out by this reporter, two RPF constables PN Giri and RJ Napit mentioned that the recipients of the award (Khiratkar and Bhosale) were not actually present when the LeT men raided CST on 26/11.

Giri and Napit, who were posted at CST and sustained bullet injuries as Qasab and Ismail opened fire on passengers, killing 58, have claimed that their superiors were not present at CST at the time of the attack.

They said that while Khiratkar had left for home, Bhosale, still on duty, could not be seen anywhere. Yet they have been given gallantry awards and money. Now their promotion hangs in the balance.

Senior RPF officers, instead of investigating into the claims against Khiratkar and Bhosale, suspended Constables Giri and Napit for speaking to the media. In fact, Giri's salary was withheld as part of the disciplinary action.

The matter was brought to the knowledge of PM Manmohan Singh and Railway Minister Mamta Banerjee and on October 28, the PMO ordered Chief Security Commissioner (CSC) of Western Railway, Lalit Kumar, to investigate and punish the defaulters. A copy of the PMO's order is available with MID DAY

But Kumar denied receiving any such order from the PMO. "If you have one, please pass it on to me," said Kumar.

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