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Antulay sends resignation letter to PM: Sources

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Minority Affairs Minister A.R. Antulay, who is at the centre of a storm triggered by his remarks on the circumstances surrounding Maharashtra anti-terrorist squad (ATS) chief Hemant Karkare's killing, has sent his resignation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, highly-placed sources said on Friday.

Seventy nine-year-old Antulay, whose remarks created uproar in Parliament and outside with Opposition parties demanding his removal, sent his resignation on Wednesday night, they said.

Antulay said, "I will resign if I am an embarrassment the party."

Antulay on Thursday said he did not owe any clarification over his remarks on Maharashtra ATS chief Hemant Karkare's death in the Mumbai terror attacks.

"I know Karkare was killed by terrorists," Antulay said, seeking to play down his comments on Wednesday that appeared to be linking Karkare's death to the investigation of "non-Muslims" in terror attacks (Malegaon blast).

"I just wanted to know who sent Karkare to Cama Hospital," Antulay told *Headlines Today*.

Antulay has submitted a written reply to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, explaining his controversial remarks, even as his party, the Congress, was likely to consider action against him. The Congress held its parliamentary party meeting in Delhi on Thursday morning.

Antulay had raised a storm in Lok Sabha on Wednesday by saying that Karkare, who was investigating the Malegaon blast case, was a "victim of terrorism plus something".

He also told reporters in Parliament that the terrorists who attacked Mumbai had no reason to kill Karkare. As the Opposition bayed for Antulay's blood, the Congress quickly distanced itself from the remarks.

Karkare was gunned down along with his colleagues when terrorists fired at their vehicle near Mumbai's Cama Hospital on the night of November 26. One of the terrorists, Ajmal Amir Kasab, was captured.

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