

Chief Minister  
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SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 6, 1997

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# Tribals hand over 2 country bombs to police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Eluru, Sept 4: In an unprecedented development, tribals of Jeelugumilli mandal, through their courier, handed over two country bombs to police here today.

Claiming that the bombs had been seized by them from non-tribals when both the clans clashed at Palacherla Rajavaram in the agency mandal in June last, a 52-year-old tribal Poonem Oochappa of Barrenkalapadu, on behalf of the tribals who indulged in the clash, handed over a carry bag containing the bombs to Jangaredyudem DSP K Koteswara Rao at the Police Guest House here.

Speaking to ENS, Oochappa said, "ever since the police refused to take the bombs, our clansmen had been safeguarding them by hiding them in fields or bushes. But recently, they had decided to surrender them and accordingly they had sent me to hand over the bombs to the police".

Taking the bombs into his possession, the DSP informed police superintendent Ravi Gupta of the development. When contacted, the SP said the bombs had been handed over to bomb squad for defusing them. A case would be registered after investigation, he added.

It may be recalled that in the backdrop of a land dispute, the tribal and non-tribals clashed

at Palacherla Rajavaram on June 29. A non-tribal farmer, Simhadri Gopala Rao, had sustained fatal injuries when the tribals attacked their rivals with bows and arrows. About 10 non-tribals and 12 tribals, four of them women, sustained minor to serious injuries.

The same evening, a group of tribesmen along with those injured in the clash, approached Jeelugumilli police station to lodge a complaint. They also produced a gunny bag containing country bombs stating that they had seized them from 'an unidentified person engaged by non-tribals'. However, the police allegedly refused to take possession of the bombs nor registered a case.