

Seven killed in firecracker shop fire in Barmer

Nitesh Kumar Sharma, TNN | Oct 23, 2014, 10.50AM IST



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JAIPUR: Seven people were burnt alive while two are feared to be trapped under debris after a firecrackers shop and godown housed in the same building caught fire in Barmer district's Balotara town, some 600 km from Jaipur, early on Thursday.

A preliminary enquiry into the incident suggests that the shop was closed when the incident took place, but some miscreants were bursting crackers near the shop's godown at nearly 1 am in the gross violation of the Supreme Court's directions. Police suspect that a firecracker landed in a garment shop and spread to the the firecracker's godown housed in the same building which led to the mishap.

Barmer SP Hemant Sharma said that the fire broke out in the two storey building housing a garment shop and a firecracker godown and shop.

"We are yet to determine how the fire took place. The bodies of seven people have been taken out of the godown, while two are still missing. The deceased persons are in the age group of 30 years and 50 years," said the officer.

Sources said that when the fire took place in the garment shop, the people staying in the building hid themselves in one of them rooms in the building where firecrackers were kept.

"But the fire spread to the whole building soon. The entire town was shaken by the explosions one after another," said a police officer.

Fire tenders were rushed to the spot; however, the rescue operation is still going on.

"We had doused the fire by 8 am, but the building was completed gutted. There is debris all around," said the officer.