

## Relatives of arrested Tamil Nadu cops protest

Relatives of two Tamil Nadu policemen arrested on arms theft charges held a protest Thursday, demanding to know their whereabouts.

The two policemen were arrested after arms were stolen from the Dharmapuri district police station Feb 9.

Relatives of one of the policemen alleged the two men were being tortured. They stopped the cars of senior police officials here to demand information about the two suspended men.

R. Sivakami, 33, wife of suspended constable K. Rajamanickam, told reporters: 'My husband and seven others were detained to undergo narco-analysis after the stolen arms were recovered on Feb 18. He has not been allowed to contact me and his whereabouts are not known.'

According to police officials, the two arrested men have confessed to stealing the weapons during a narco-test in Bangalore. They, however, refused to give further details on their detention.

Six rifles and communication equipment went missing from Adhiyamankottai police station in Dharmapuri district Feb 9. The area is reported to be under the sway of Maoists. While most of the arms were found buried in a plantation nearby a few days later, the communication equipment is still missing.

Eight suspects - all policemen - were arrested in this connection. Six of them have been released.

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