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Pvt security agencies ready to help in intelligence gathering

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AMIDST demands for strengthening country's intelligence network following recent series of bomb blasts, private security agencies have pitched for the involvement of their six million strong force for the information collection tasks.

The agencies, which function under the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005, said the workforce can easily be trained to function as "eyes and ears" for local intelligence. "The average security guard lives in jhuggi-jhopdi (hutments) and similar areas and com-

mutates on his bicycle or in public transport. These are the places where possible terror mongers hide," chief of Central Association of Private Security Industry in India (CAPSI) and Association of Private Detective Agencies in India (APDI) Kunwar Vikram Singh said.

The security personnel, as part of their job, scan through numerous people while they stand guard at offices, cinema halls, malls and other public places.

"They can come handy to gather local intelligence," he said.

The need of the hour is to give proper training and recognition from the

government to involve the private security agencies in such a task.

"We are looking for the right opportunity. For instance, if the government designates two security posts to us during the upcoming Independence day, we will prove that we can deliver," founder Secretary-General of the twin organisations Captain Ravee said.

Ravee, who runs a private security agency, said initially they would do the job for free. However, no response has come yet from the government whether it would involve private security agencies in such tasks.—PTI