

Atrocities of Minority Christian Community

5963. LT. GEN. NEVILLE FOLEY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidents of atrocities on minority christian community have increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and crime-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check such atrocities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) According to information received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, there has been an increasing trend of incidents of atrocities/

crimes on minority Christian community during the year 1998 in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat only.

(b) State-wise comparative statement of crimes/atrocities for the year 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 is enclosed.

(c) To maintain Public Order is the responsibility of the State Governments and the attention of the State Governments is drawn from time to time for taking action against persons spreading ill-will, hatred or disharmony between members of different communities by issuing guidelines. The latest guidelines on communal harmony were issued on 22nd October, 1997 suggestions various measures for controlling the communal situation. The Central Government also assists the State Governments by sharing by intelligence and providing Central Paramilitary forces as and when necessary.

Statement

Statement showing the incidents of atrocities/crimes on minority christian community from 1995 onwards.

S.No.	Name of State	No. of incidents of atrocities/crimes against Christians during			
		1995	1996	1997	1998
1.	Andhra Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	2	NIL
3.	Bihar	NIL	NIL	3	3
4.	Gujarat	NIL	1	1	4
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	NIL	NIL	1	NIL
6.	Kerala	NIL	2	3	NIL
7.	Madhya Pradesh	2	NIL	NIL	NIL
8.	Maharashtra	NIL	1	1	5
9.	Manipur	NIL	1	2	1
10.	Punjab	NIL	NIL	1	NIL
11.	Rajasthan	NIL	NIL	8	NIL
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1	NIL	NIL	1
13.	West Bengal	NIL	1	1	NIL
Total		5	7	23	15

Exploration in Assam

5964. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil India Limited is undertaking exploration and drilling work in Brahmaputra Valley Exploration Project in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in the first attempt and other locations being prepared for continuation of drilling operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.