

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4593
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
U.P. RELIGIOUS PLACES BILL, 2000
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Religious Places Bill is under the consideration of the various Ministries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the Ministries which have submitted their reports and those which have not submitted their reports as yet;
- (d) whether the various organisations have requested not to send the said bill to the President for his assent;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reaction of Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

- (a) to (c): The provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Regulation of Public Religious Buildings and Places Bill, 2000 are under examination of the Central Government in consultation with Ministries of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Home Affairs and Tourism & Culture. Some observations have also been referred to the State Government on August 10, 2000 for clarifications. The State Government's reply is awaited.
- (d) & (e): Representations have been received from some organisations and political parties urging the President to withhold assent from the Bill as, in their opinion, it would interfere with fundamental right of freedom of religion enshrined in the Constitution of India.
- (f): The Government is, fully committed to preserving and further strengthening the secular ethos of the country.