

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2933
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
CONVERSION OF TRIBALS
MOHAN RAWALE;VIJAY GOEL

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidents of conversion of tribals by foreign missionaries in various tribal areas in the country have been noticed by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise
- (c) whether the Government have received reports regarding the communal tension prevailing in the tribal areas due to such activities; and
- (d) if so, the manner in which the Government are dealing with the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JUAL ORAM)

- (a) Though the Government keeps a watch on such activities of individuals and organizations which may disturb communal peace, Article 25(1) of the Constitution provides that subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of the part III, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion. Right to freedom of religion is a Constitutional Right under Articles 25 to 30.
- (b) Details regarding conversion are not maintained by the Central Government.
- (c)&(d) Although the Public Order and Police are State subjects, there are unconfirmed reports about conversions and communal tensions. Besides constituting special force (Rapid Action Force), the Central Government have been providing assistance to the State Governments to improve their policing infrastructure and sharing intelligence with them. The Government also issues guidelines to the State Governments to take action against people spreading disharmony and hatred amongst the members of different communities.