

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2415
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002
VIOLENCE AGAINST MINORITIES
SURESH KURUP

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of violence targeting minority communities during each of the last three years and till date, State-wise;
- (b) the organisations involved in such attacks;
- (c) the number of persons arrested/chargesheeted in this connection during the said period, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check violence against minorities?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): `Public order` and `Police` are State subjects as per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, and hence the State Governments are primarily concerned with the detection, registration and prosecution of such crimes as well as maintenance of data/records on the issues under question. The Union Government does not maintain any data in this regard. The Union Government, on its part, shares information and sends alert messages/advisories to enable the concerned State Governments/Union Territories Administrations to take appropriate action. Detailed guidelines for promotion of communal harmony have also been issued to all the State Governments/Union Territories. In addition, the Central Paramilitary Forces are made available to them on specific request and a special force called the Rapid Action Force is also deployed exclusively for dealing with communal disturbances. Assistance is also provided for modernization of the State police forces.

The activities of all organizations having a bearing on the maintenance of peace and communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of law enforcing agencies and requisite legal action is taken wherever necessary.

Even as the Union Government is taking steps as indicated above, it may be added that the Government is very much alive to the sensitivities of the minority communities in this regard and reaffirms its commitment to uphold the secular principles enshrined in the Constitution as well as to safeguard the interests of the minorities and to maintain peace and communal harmony in the country, at all costs.