

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2775

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002

PLIGHT OF MINORITIES IN BANGLADESH

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB;KAILASH MEGHWAL;MOHAN RAWALE;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Prime Minister during the recently concluded SAARC Summit discussed with his Bangladeshi counterpart about the violent attacks on minorities in that country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government had approached the UN Human Rights Commission in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Commission thereto; and
- (e) the number of minorities from Bangladesh fled to India as on date ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister had raised the issue during his meeting with Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bangladesh when she had called on him on 4th January 2002 on the sidelines of SAARC Summit at Kathmandu. During the meeting, Prime Minister of Bangladesh had stated that a number of cases had been filed. She also informed that an independent Human Rights Commission was in the process of being set up to look into all reports of violation of Human Rights.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The influx of Bangladeshi nationals has been continuing prior and since the October 2001 incidents as the immigrants enter India for a variety of overlapping reasons including economic compulsions rendering an exact computation difficult.