

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2535

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000

ATTACK ON CHRISTIANS

A. KRISHNASWAMY;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Human Rights Commission has asked the Union and various State Governments to submit detailed report on the recent incidents of attacks on Christians and their institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of States submitted their report to the National Human Rights Commission alongwith the reaction of the Union Government thereon;
- (d) whether NHRC has issued show cause notice to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and other State Governments for the non-payment of compensation to the dependents of the victims;
- (e) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (f) the steps being taken by the Government to provide security to minority community in the country?

Answer

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

(a)to(e): Yes Sir, the Hon`ble Commission had issued a suo-moto Notice to the Central Government and all the State Governments on 21.06.2000 inter-alia, directing to file their replies within two weeks indicating therein the measures taken by them, and the plan of action, if any, drawn up by them to preserve the secular credentials of the Nation and to fulfill the promise of fraternity and common brotherhood envisaged in our Constitution. The reply of the Central government has been filed on 24.07.2000. The State Governments are required to file their reply directly before the Commission.

(f): `Public Order` and `Police` are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation and detection of crime as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments.

However, the Central Govt. has issued detailed revised Guidelines for the promotion of communal harmony and national integration. Intelligence inputs are shared with the State Govts. concerned and alert messages and advisories are sent from time to time(the latest being on 19.06.2000). The Central Para Military Forces are made available to them on specific requests and a special force called the `Rapid Action Force` has been set up to deal exclusively with communal tensions. Assistance is also provided for the modernisation of the Policing structure.

On 04.07.2000, a high-level meeting was convened with Home Secretaries, DPGs and DG/IG (Intelligence) of the Govts. of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, U.P. and Orissa.

The State Govts. were urged to provide protection to the minorities particularly Christians and their institutions and to deal firmly with the perpetrators of violence against them.

In accordance with the secular ideals enshrined in the Constitution the Govt., is committed to safeguarding the interests of minorities and to deal firmly with the perpetrators of violence against them.