

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:12
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2005
STAMPEDE AT MANDRADEVI TEMPLE
Kalmadi Shri Suresh;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people who lost their lives and also those who were injured in a stampede at the Mandradevi temple in Satara, Maharashtra in the recent past;
- (b) the factors attributed to the incident;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;
- (d) whether the Union Government has reviewed the arrangements made by the State Government and issued any guidelines to check the recurrence of such incidents in future in other important temples; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.12 FOR ANSWER ON 1ST MARCH, 2005 REGARDING "STAMPEDE AT MANDRADEVI TEMPLE"

(a): The Government of Maharashtra has informed that 291 persons lost their lives and 98 sustained injuries during the stampede on 25.1.2005 at Mandradevi Temple.

(b): A large number of devotees had converged on 25.1.2005 at the temple to offer puja on the occasion of 'Shakambari Purnima'. A woman devotee carrying a basket slipped and the oil contained in her basket spilled on the approach path to the temple that was already slippery due to coconut water. This led to other devotees to slip and fall on her resulting in the stampede.

(c): The Government of Maharashtra has decided to appoint a Commission of Inquiry under the powers conferred by sections 3 and 5 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952.

(d)&(e): The Union Home Minister paid a visit to the site of the stampede on 29.1.2005 and reviewed the situation. Besides, the Central Government has instructed all States/UTs to take effective steps to manage the crowd during such religious festivals/fairs. These measures may interalia include proper and adequate civic and other logistic arrangements; maintenance of law and order and security arrangements during such festivals.