

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1527  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009  
USCIRF VISIT TO INDIA  
Muttamwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) whether a delegation of United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) was intending to visit India in June, 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the purpose of the visit;
- (c) whether USCIRF commented adversely on certain issues concerning the religious freedom within the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government considers such comments as direct interference in the internal affairs of India; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) & (b) A delegation from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) had proposed to visit India in June 2009 to study religious freedom conditions in the country.
- (c) & (d) The USCIRF released its Annual Report on 9 May 2009. The report did not include a reference to the religious freedom situation in India. However, the USCIRF had earlier, in a press release issued on 10 Jan 2008 expressed concern at the outbreak of communal violence in Orissa in 2007.
- (e) & (f) Government of India does not take cognisance of comments made by such Commissions in foreign countries on internal matters of India.