

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6512

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010

KILLINGS OF SIKHS IN PAKISTAN

Anandan Shri K.Murugeshan;Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Rani Killi Krupa;Vivekanand Dr. G.;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Taliban has beheaded Sikhs in Pakistan and also kidnapped some Sikh/Hindu people;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether any compensation is provided to the affected families;
- (d) whether the Union Government has taken up the matter with Pakistan to ensure adequate safety and security of the Sikhs and Hindus in Pakistan including Indians living/posted in service there;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA)

(a): Yes.

(b) to (c): In a Suo Motu Statement made in the Parliament on 24-02-2010, the External Affairs Minister strongly condemned the beheading of Sardar Jaspal Singh and expressed sincere condolences to the family of Sardar Jaspal Singh. The President of Pakistan strongly condemned the incident and asked the authorities to investigate and take stern action against the kidnappers in accordance with law. He also directed that effective measures be taken to stop the recurrence of such incidents in the future.

(d) to (f): This issue of beheading and kidnapping of Sikhs in Pakistan was also taken up with Pakistan in the Foreign Secretary level talks held on February 25, 2010 in New Delhi. Moreover, the issue of persecution of minorities in Pakistan has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan stated that it was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community. In addition, Government remains committed to taking all necessary measures for the safety and security of Indians living/posted in Pakistan.