

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5515
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011
TEMPLE ENTRY
Jena Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidents of restriction on the entry of the scheduled caste people in temples have been reported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Odisha;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to bring in a comprehensive legislation in view of the non-implementation of temple entry authorisation Act in various States; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to prevent the practice of untouchability in temples and punish the perpetrators of this inhuman practices?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a): Instances have been reported in the media regarding alleged restriction of entry of the Scheduled caste people in temples.
- (b): Data on incidents on restriction of entry of Schedule Caste people in temples is not maintained centrally. As per information provided by Odisha Government, two incidents have been reported in the last five years, one at Jagannath temple at Keredagada under Rajnagar P.S., Dist. Kendrapara and another at Kali Temple at Nuapada Village under Brahmagiri P.S., Dis. Puri, where persons belonging to Scheduled Castes were barred entry into temple by General Castes people. In both the cases, State Government has registered cases against the accused.
- (c): As per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects and, as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, including crime against SCs and STs, lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Government of India is committed to prevent and combat crimes against vulnerable sections of the society, including Dalits, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs). The current provisions under Protection of Civil Rights 1955 are adequate deterrent to prevent any such crime.
- (d): Under section 3 (a) of Protection of Civil Rights 1955, preventing any person to enter into any place of worship which is frequented by persons professing same religion is punishable with imprisonment and pecuniary fine. The act is stringently followed by all the State Governments and Union territory administrations.