

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2251

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012

ATTACK ON SIKH SHRINE IN US

Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Maharaj Shri Satpal;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of killing of some persons of Indian origin in a shootout incident at a place of worship in America;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the US Government at the highest level;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with response of the US Government thereon;
- (e) whether incidents of victimisation and oppression of Indians in foreign countries are on the rise during the last three years and the current year;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, country-wise, incident-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (g) whether the Government proposes to form a special task force to prevent such incidents in future; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof along with other steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) A gunman shot and killed six people and injured three others in a Gurudwara at Oak Creek, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States at 10.15 AM (local time) on 5 August 2012. The dead included four Indian and two American citizens. The gunman was later killed reportedly through a combination of police firing and self inflicted wounds.

(c) & (d) The Government conveyed its concerns to the U.S. Government about the shooting and the general security of the Indian community in the United States through the diplomatic channels immediately after the incident. Further, External Affairs Minister spoke on telephone to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 6 August 2012 to convey the country's shock at this tragic incident, and to request the US Government to take all steps to ensure the security of the Indian community in the United States and their places of worship. Prime Minister also conveyed the same to US President Obama, when latter called him on 8 August 2012.

President Obama, in his public statement, expressed sorrow over the incident, conveyed his condolence for the victims, highlighted the rich contribution of the Sikh community to the United States and assured all support for the investigations into the shooting. He assured Prime Minister that the U.S. is determined to make sure that it does not happen again. Further, President Obama issued a proclamation ordering the US flag to be flown at half-staff from 6 August until sunset, 10 August 2012, as a mark of respect for the victims of the Gurudwara attack. The U.S. Attorney General visited Oak Creek and met the families of the victims. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has also joined the investigation into the incident.

(e) to (h) Information on incidents of victimization and oppression of Indians in foreign countries is being collected and the same would be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.