

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1437
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
SECURITY TO RELIGIOUS MINORITIES
Singh Shri Uma Shanaker

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a report by the US Government commenting on the religious freedom and alleged persecution of the religious minorities in India;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any policy towards securing religious freedom and ensuring the safety and security of the religious minorities in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government for relief and rehabilitation including compensation to the victims of communal violence in the country?

Answer

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

- (a): No report from the US Government on the religious freedom and alleged persecution of the religious minorities in India has been received in the Ministry.
- (b): Does not arise.
- (c) and (d): The Central Government is committed to upholding the right to freedom of religion of its citizens enshrined in the Constitution of India. "Police" and "Public Order" being State subjects under the Constitution of India, the responsibility of maintaining law & order and ensuring safety and security of the people, including religious minorities, primarily rests with respective State Governments. To maintain communal harmony in the country, the Central Government assists the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations in a variety of ways like sharing of intelligence, sending alert messages, sending Central para- military Forces to the concerned State Governments on specific request including the composite Rapid Action Force which has been created specially to deal with communal situations, and providing assistance to States for modernization of the State Police Forces. In addition, advisories are also issued from time to time. The Central Government has also circulated revised Guidelines to promote communal harmony, to the States and Union Territories in the month of June, 2008.
- (e): The responsibility of providing relief and rehabilitation to the victims of communal violence primarily rests with respective State Governments. The Central Government has also introduced a scheme in 2008 to provide assistance to, inter alia, the next of kin of civilian victims of communal violence.