

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1608
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
RESIGNATION OF LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports that the local people's representatives are tendering their resignations due to threat from naxalites in the country including Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The CPI (Maoist), which is strategically opposed to the institutions of parliamentary democracy, including the Panchayati Raj at the grass-root level, has of late, been employing coercive tactics to sabotage functioning of the Panchayat Raj Institutions, particularly in its strongholds of Odisha and Maharashtra. With the twin objectives of compelling the Panchayat representatives to toe the Maoist line and implement the naxal diktat on developmental issues, the outfit has been issuing directives to the Panchayat representatives to attend meetings organised by them, and during such meetings, issuing specific directions under the shadow of the gun. A total of 264 Panchayat functionaries tendered their resignations in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra due to threats from the CPI(Maoist). Out of these, 165 Panchayat members withdrew their resignations subsequently. In Odisha, there are inputs of CPI(Maoist) threatening panchayat representatives in district Malkangiri to resign, on the pretext that they have failed to solve the development related problems faced by local tribal people. However, no information has been received regarding tendering of resignation by Panchayat representatives in Odisha so far.

The process of Panchayat elections in Odisha during the beginning of this year was vitiated through use of coercive means by the Maoists to intimidate the prospective candidates and propping-up their own supporters. As a result a number of representatives were elected unopposed.

(c): In view of the threat from the CPI (Maoist) to the Panchayat functionaries, the Central Government has sensitized the State Government of Maharashtra to take all necessary preventive and precautionary measures including providing security to vulnerable Panchayat functionaries.