

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:222

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012

VIOLENCE IN ASSAM

Gavit Shri Manikrao Hodlya;Meinya Dr. Thokchom

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a request was sent by the Government of Assam to the Union Government for immediate deployment of Army to arrest the violence in several districts of Assam immediately after the violence broke out;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government took a long time to send reinforcement there;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has inquired into the reasons for the delay in sending reinforcement especially by the armed forces and if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the details of Standard Operating Procedure for troops deployment being followed by the Army in this regard; and
- (f) the steps taken / being taken by the Government to ensure that necessary help is immediately provided to the affected areas in such cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 222 FOR ANSWER ON 27.8.2012

State Government of Assam requested Ministry of Defence (MoD) through a fax on 21.7.2012 (Saturday) evening for deployment of Army in Kokrajhar. The Ministry of Defence on learning of the request sought the assessment of the situation from the Army as they were already in deployment for counter insurgency duties in Assam.

Further, a fax message was received from the State government on 24th July, 2012 for deployment of Army in aid to civil authorities in the districts of Kokrajhar, Dhubri and Chirang. Ministry of Home Affairs on 24th July, 2012 requested for deployment of Army in these districts. Ministry of Defence issued directions for deployment of Army in aid to civil authorities on the same day.

A total of 37 Army columns (including reserves) were deployed across the districts of Kokrajhar, Chiranguri, Dhubri, Baksa, Kamrup, Nalbari, Hailakandi, Cachar & Karimganj and Sonitpur in Assam.

As per the Instructions issued by MoD the Armed Forces can be requisitioned in Aid to Civil Authority in accordance with provision of law. Additionally, the internal policy issued by Army requires deployment of troops for normal law and order situations by field formations and in case of situations with Communal overtones (e.g. communal tension and riots) deployment of troops in aid to civil authorities need to be first cleared by Chief of Army Staff and MoD.