

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:333

ANSWERED ON:04.09.2012

SECURITY OF NE PEOPLE

Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether exodus of people belonging to the North Eastern (NE) States from various cities of the country due to perceptible threat of communal violence has been reported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, city-wise;
- (c) whether there are reports of rumours being spread through text messages and other electronic media with the intent of stoking communal violence;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the source of these rumours; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps taken to instill a sense of security amongst the people belonging to the North Eastern States staying in different parts of the country as well as faith and confidence in the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 333 FOR 4.9.2012

(a) to (e): As per reports, the flight /exodus of North Eastern people from some cities of the country was triggered off because of a communally surcharged atmosphere created by circulation of short messaging services (SMSes) / Multi -media services (MMSes) and mails, clips and photographs on the social networking sites which were false, morphed and calculated to incite hatred and violence between the communities. The Central Government was alive to the situation and promptly took steps to counter it. Orders were issued for blocking the bulk SMSes and MMSes for a period of 15 days. Besides, directions to the relevant social networks were issued to block those sites which were carrying hate messages or messages calculated to incite communal violence. As of now most of these sites have been blocked. This as well as the exposure of the fact that many photographs and clips were false/morphed; and were uploaded abroad has discredited this attempt. As a result, the communally surcharged atmosphere has eased.

The concerned State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and other States/Union Territories were requested to reach out to the people from the North East living in their States and reassure them of security by way of deploying security forces and establishing pickets in the areas where North Eastern people are living and also setting up help lines so that in case of any incident, any person/student from the North East could ring up the help lines and be assured of response. State Governments had taken action promptly in this regard to stop the exodus of North Eastern people. At present, the situation is under control and being monitored closely.