

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:126
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013
HATE CRIME AGAINST INDIANS
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Dhanaplan Shri K. P.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether instances of Indians becoming victims of hate-crimes in America have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether any protest has been lodged with the Government of U.S. in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 126 REGARDING 'HATE-CRIME AGAINST INDIANS' FOR ANSWER ON 06.03.2013

The Government is aware of incidents of crime involving loss of life or injury to Indians residing in the United States. Not all these incidents can be termed as hate-crimes, as investigations by U.S. authorities have identified most of these recorded incidents as cases of robbery, personal rivalry, looting, etc.

However, there have been some incidents which seem to have been motivated by hatred, including the killing of two Sikhs in Sacramento, California, in March 2011; the attack on a Gurudwara in Wisconsin in August 2012 and; the death of an Indian in New York in December 2012.

In the first of these cases, two persons, Shri Surinder Singh and Shri Gurmej Atwal, were killed in Sacramento, California on 4 March 2011, after being shot at by unidentified assailants. The local authorities are investigating the case as a possible hate-crime, probably due to mistaken identity, as the victims wore turbans at the time of the incident.

In the second tragic incident, six persons were killed and three others injured at a shooting incident at a Gurudwara in Oak Creek, Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 5 August 2012. The assailant was reportedly killed through a combination of police firing and self inflicted wounds.

Finally, more recently, an Indian national, Shri Sunando Sen, was killed by a moving train after being pushed onto the tracks at an elevated subway station in Queens, New York City, on 27 December 2012. The assailant is believed to be mentally disturbed.

Government brings to the attention of U.S. federal and local authorities all incidents, including the incidents of hate-crimes, which affect the safety and security of Indian nationals residing in the United States. This issue has been raised at all levels with the U.S. Government, which has been requested to ensure the safety of all Indians and prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future.

U.S. authorities have underlined on a number of occasions their commitment to the safety of all residents in the United States, including people of foreign origin. In the case of the attack on the Gurudwara at Oak Creek, U.S. President Barack Obama spoke with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 8 August 2012 to express condolences for the victims of this shooting incident, and to convey the solidarity of the American people. President Obama also issued a proclamation ordering the U.S. flag to be flown at half mast for five days, as a mark of respect for the victims of the Gurudwara attack. First Lady Michelle Obama also visited Oak Creek on 23 August 2012 to meet the affected families.