

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6497
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
KILLING OF CIVILIANS IN ANTI NAXAL OPERATIONS
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports that innocent civilians have been killed during anti-naxal operations;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is true that many villagers in the country have complained that the naxals were using them as shields; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) & (b): There have been occasional complaints against Security Forces of violation of human rights during anti-naxal operations. Such allegations usually surface after exchanges of fire between the Left Wing Extremists and the Security Forces. One such allegation pertains to the incident dated 28 June, 2012 at Sarkeguda in Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh, in which, during an exchange of fire between security forces and alleged Maoist cadres, 17 persons were killed and 6 Security Force personnel were injured.

In view of the various allegations pertaining to the said incident, the Government of Chhattisgarh has ordered a judicial inquiry into the matter under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd) Shri V.K. Agarwal.

In the context of alleged violation of human rights, it also needs to be mentioned that a number of front organizations of the CPI(Maoist) party, while professing to be Human Rights Organisations, quite often instigate baseless and motivated allegations against the Security Forces to demoralize and demotivate them. In fact, propaganda and disinformation is an important tool of Maoist insurgency which they effectively use from time to time. One such disinformation technique is to send Fact Finding Teams (FFTs) made up of Maoist sympathizers, who present a biased picture of events before the mainstream media. Hence, some of the allegations of purported human rights violations have to be viewed in this context. In fact, it is a little known fact that since the year 2001, the Left Wing Extremists have killed 5847 civilians and 2097 security forces personnel.

(c) to (d): There are allegations that naxals use civilians as human shields during encounters with Security Forces. Such allegations have been found true on a number of occasions.

The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have sensitized their field formations to take utmost care to avoid casualties / injuries and any form of harassment of locals while undertaking anti-naxal operations even when they are used as human shields by the Maoists. Further, in all genuine instances of complaints against Security Forces of alleged violation of human rights during anti-naxal operations, the State Governments / Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) initiate enquiries and if found guilty, departmental / criminal proceedings are launched against the erring personnel.

The Government of India has issued instructions to all State Governments / CAPFs to adhere to the highest standards of human rights during anti-LWE operations and to strictly deal with aberrations, if any. Besides, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on 'Maoists using villagers as human shields' has been circulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Governments of LWE affected States and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) for consideration/ comments.