

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2369
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
NAXAL THREAT TO PANCHAYAT LEADERS
Shanavas Shri M. I.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports that some panchayat representatives have resigned under naxal threats in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last one year and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The CPI(Maoist), which is vehemently opposed to the institutions of parliamentary democracy, including Panchayati Raj at the grass-root level, has of late, been employing coercive tactics to sabotage the functioning of the Panchayat Raj Institutions, particularly in its strongholds of Odisha and Maharashtra. With the twin objective 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. Due to threats from the CPI(Maoist), 99 Panchayat functionaries tendered their resignations in 2012 in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. 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. The process of Panchayat elections in Odisha during the beginning of last 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. Concerted coercive tactics used by the CPI(Maoist) has led to resignation of 52 village chowkidars in Malkangiri and Koraput districts. During the current year, so far, no such resignations of panchayat representatives have been reported.

(c): 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects, action with respect to maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the State Governments concerned. The Central Government has a holistic approach towards combating LWE wherein it supplements the efforts of the State Governments over a wide range of issues including deployment of CAPFs, assistance in implementation of development schemes, improving governance and capacity building by the States in various areas. It is the belief of the Government of India that a combination of calibrated police action, focused development efforts and improvement in governance will yield the desired results against LWE. Government has also issued advisories to the State Governments of Maharashtra and Odisha for ensuring the security of the concerned persons so as to obviate all possibilities of hampering the smooth functioning of Government's institutions.