

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1946

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

THREAT TO RELIGIOUS PLACES .

Naik Shri Shripad Yesso;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of religious sites and tourist places in the country are facing threat of terrorist attack;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the security measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Indian Mujahideen (IM) terrorists, arrested for their involvement in Pune Blast Case (1.8.2012), had revealed their plans to target temples in Bodh Gaya.

(c): As 'Law & Order' is a State subject as per the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India, primary responsibility lies with the concerned State Security Agencies. Combating terrorism, however, is a shared responsibility considering its implication on internal security. The Government of India has been assisting the State Governments to modernize their Police forces through the Modernization of State Police Force Scheme. In order to deal with the menace of extremism and terrorism the Government of India have taken various measures Which, inter-alia, include augmenting the strength of Central Armed Police Forces; establishment of NSG hubs at Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai; empowerment of DG, NSG to requisition aircraft for movement of NSG personnel in the event of any emergency; strengthening and re-organizing of Multi-Agency Centre to enable it to function on 24x7 basis for real time collation and sharing of intelligence with other intelligence and security agencies; tighter immigration control; effective border management through round the clock surveillance & patrolling on the borders; establishment of observation posts, border fencing, flood lighting, deployment of modern and hi-tech surveillance equipment; upgradation of Intelligence setup; and coastal security. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 has been amended and notified in 2008 and 2012 to strengthen the punitive measures to combat terrorism. The National Investigation Agency has been constituted under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 to investigate and prosecute offences under the Acts specified in the Schedule. As a part of steps to counter terrorist threats, the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has been created. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act has been amended in 2009 to inter alia, include certain offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, as predicate offence. Further, the Government continues to raise the issues of Cross-Border Terrorism in all its aspects including its financing on various multi-lateral and bilateral fora.