

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3537

ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014

MINORITY PERSECUTION IN BANGLADESH

Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Singh Shri Bhola;Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of attacks/assaults on the minorities especially Hindus in Bangladesh in the recent past;
- (b) the extent of their sufferings in terms of loss of their lives and properties;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government with the Bangladeshi authorities to ensure security to its citizens in that country;
- (d) whether there is any move to enter into a specific agreement in this regard/get minorities commission set up in Bangladesh; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (e) The Government is aware of reports of attacks on members of minority communities, including Hindus, in recent incidents of violence during and around strikes/hartals being organised by the opposition parties in Bangladesh in the wake of the International Crimes Tribunal verdicts and the run up to the recent elections for the Bangladesh National Parliament.

During our interaction with the senior leadership of Bangladesh, India's concerns regarding maintenance of communal peace and harmony in Bangladesh has been conveyed. The Government of Bangladesh has reiterated its commitment to provide security for minorities and to safeguard the minority rights within the legal framework of Bangladesh's Constitution. Bangladesh authorities have deployed security forces extensively to curb the violent acts during the strikes/hartals. It is the primary responsibility of Government of Bangladesh to discharge its obligations towards all its citizens, including Hindus.