

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4135

ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014

ATTACKS ON MINORITIES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao; Mohan Shri P. C.; Upadhyay Seema; Vardhan Shri Harsh; Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.; Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the attacks on the minorities and their places of worships in Bangladesh and Pakistan during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard at bilateral/international levels and the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Government is aware of reports of attacks on members of minority communities in Bangladesh and Pakistan, including some incidents of desecration and vandalism of Hindu Temples and Gurudwaras in Pakistan.

It is the responsibility of the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Pakistan to discharge their obligations towards their respective citizens, including protection of their places of worship. Government has taken up the matter, at a bilateral level, both with the Government of Bangladesh and with the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Bangladesh has reiterated its commitment to provide security for its minorities and to safeguard minority rights within the legal framework of Bangladesh's Constitution. The Government of Pakistan has stated that it is fully cognizant of the situation and looks after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community.