

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2058
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
WATCH LIST OF USCIRF
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom placing India on its 'watch list' for 2009 for not taking effective measures to ensure the rights of religious minorities in many States;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India does not take cognizance of an annual report prepared by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, which was submitted to the Government of the United States of America, in August 2009, in compliance of their domestic legislative requirements.

(c) The Government of India is committed to the welfare and security of all Indians, irrespective of their religion.