

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:380

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015

Return of Awards

Antony Shri Anto ;Chandel Kunwar Pushpendra Singh;Dev Km. Sushmita;Gautam Shri Satish Kumar;Jayavardhan Dr. Jayakumar;Kamal Nath Shri ;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Mullappally Shri Ramachandran;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Senthilnathan Shri PR.;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to growing atmosphere of intolerance in the country and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) the action taken by the Government to remove this intolerance;
- (c) the number of artists, writers, scholars and intellectuals who have officially returned the award to the Government;
- (d) the response of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote communal harmony in the country and improve the image of India internationally?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(KIREN RIJU)

(a) and (b): Although it has been brought out in various fora, the prevailing communal situation in the country does not indicate existence of alleged intolerance in the country. The number of communal incidents in the country in recent years have been 668 in 2012, 823 in 2013, 644 in 2014 and 650 in 2015 (upto October).

The Central Government has circulated revised Guidelines to promote Communal Harmony to the States and Union Territories in 2008 which inter alia, lay down standard operating procedures to be put in place to deal with situation arising out of the communal violence. They also delineate preventive and administrative measures to be taken to maintain communal harmony. These guidelines are reiterated while sending advisories.

(c) and (d): As per available information, a total of 39 Sahitya Akademi awardees who received awards from 1976 onwards, 01 Lalit Kala Akademi awardee and 03 Padma awardees have reportedly returned their awards to the Government. It has been informed that the Sahitya Akademi convened a special Executive Board meeting in which a Resolution has been passed, requesting the writers to reconsider their decision.

(e): "Public Order" and "Police" are State subjects as per the provisions of the Constitution of India. The responsibility of dealing with communal violence as per the provisions of extant laws rests primarily with the respective State Governments.

However, to maintain communal harmony in the country, the Central Government assists the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in a variety of ways like sharing of information, sending alert messages and advisories, sending Central Armed Police Forces including the composite Rapid Action Force, created specially to deal with communal situations, to the concerned State Governments on specific requests and in the modernisation of the State Police Forces.

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