

Attack on Restaurants and Card Galleries on Valentine's Day

2751. SHRI C. APOK J AMIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain fundamentalists belonging to a political party ransacked restaurants and card galleries in some parts of Delhi, Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi in U.P., Raipur in Chhattisgarh, Nasik in Maharashtra over the Valentine's Day celebrations;

(b) whether this type of action on the part of that group tantamount to attack on liberty; and

(c) what necessary steps Government propose to take so that such ugly incidents do not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) As per the available information, there were protests by certain organisations in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Bareilly, Lucknow and Kanpur against Valentine's Day celebrations.

(b) and (c) 'Public Order*' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Government stressing upon them the need to take preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures in connection with crimes.

Attacks against minorities

2752. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of attacks against minorities, particularly Christians, in various parts of the country have risen alarmingly;

(b) if so, the details of the incidents occurred in various States and groups responsible for the same; and

(c) what steps Government would take to instil confidence among minorities and ensure such incidents do not recur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There has not been any alarming increase in the incidents of communal violence against minorities. However, there have been some incidents of violence against Christians. But most of these incidents relate to law and order/crime. In the case of bomb blasts in church premises in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Goa in the year 2000, the involvement of activists of an organization called the 'Deendar Anjuman' has been established.

'Public Order' and 'Police' appear at Entry No. 1 and 2 of List II-State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Hence, it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to maintain public order and peace, including registration, investigation of crime and compiling of data relating to communal incidents etc.

The Government of India shares intelligence and sends advisories/ alert messages to the States/UTs from time to time and Central Paramilitary Forces are made available to them on specific request. A special force called the Rapid Action Force is deployed to deal exclusively with the communal tensions. Assistance is also being provided to State Governments for modernization of their policing infrastructure. In addition, detailed guidelines have been issued in October, 1997 for the promotion of communal harmony.

Cases of atrocities on SC/ST

2753. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of atrocities on SC and ST reported during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken in these cases by Government?