

*The House then adjourned at thirty-two minutes past twelve of the clock.*

*The House reassembled at one of the clock.*

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

#### **Steps to combat increasing communalism**

\*42. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to combat increasing communalism in the country;

(b) keeping in view the increase in religious extremism and intolerance to each other's religious rights, violating Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution, what steps Government proposes to take to safeguard the fundamental rights of citizens and their right to practise religion; and

(c) whether Government would consider involving NGOs in fighting the menace of communalism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) to (c) As per available information, 694 communal incidents were reported during January-October 2013 while 561 communal incidents were reported during January-October 2014. There has, thus, been a decline of 19% in communal incidents during the period January-October 2014 as compared to the corresponding period of 2013. The Constitution of India guarantees the Right to Freedom of Religion under Article 25 and 26 and violations of such rights are dealt with under the extant laws in force. The Central Government issues alerts and advisories on developments having bearing on communal harmony, share advance intelligence with the States and UTs and deploy Central Armed Police Forces including RAF on the request of the States/UTs to render assistance in such situations. The Communal Harmony Guidelines of 2008 circulated by the Central Government, amongst others, provide for the involvement of voluntary organizations to maintain communal harmony and to defuse tension in the event of communal situation.

#### **Development of tourist places on the pattern of Santosa island, Singapore**

\*43. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to develop certain places of tourist interest on the pattern of Santosa Island of Singapore;