

**Communal clashes in the country**

\*108. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of communal clashes occurred/reported in the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons charge sheeted and convicted; and

(c) the steps taken to maintain communal harmony in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) to (c) As per available information, the details of communal incidents which occurred in the country during the last three years, including 2015, are as under:—

Year	Number of communal incidents
2012	668
2013	823
2014	644
2015 (Upto October)	650

“Public Order” and “Police” are State subjects as per the provisions of the Constitution of India. The responsibilities of maintaining law and order including investigation, prosecution, conviction etc., rest primarily with the respective State Governments. The number of persons charge sheeted and convicted are maintained by the State Governments.

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. 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 the 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.