

Hate killing in USA

2430. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian techies are killed in the United States of America and other foreign countries due to hate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken up the issue with those countries to stop such killings and to protect our countrymen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Two Indians techies were shot in Kansas (Texas), USA on 22 February 2017 resulting in tragic death of one of them and the other sustaining injuries in the process. There are, however, no clear indications to suggest that this was a hate crime against Indians in the United States of America (USA).

(c) and (d) The Government has taken up this issue with the US Government at very high-levels and conveyed our deep concerns. We have called for necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of Indian Diaspora and expeditious investigation into these incidents. The US Authorities have responded strongly and assured us that they are working with all concerned agencies to ensure speedy justice. There has been widespread condemnation of these incidents by the U.S. leadership, both in the Administration and the Congress.

The safety and security of Indians abroad is among the top diplomatic priorities for the Government of India. Missions and Posts remain vigilant and closely monitor any incident of attack against Indians. Such incidents are immediately taken up with the concerned authorities of local, State and Union Administration as appropriate, to ensure that the cases are properly investigated and guilty punished. In the USA, the Government also engages with the US Congress for their support.

Risk of deportation of Indian students from USA

2431. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than ten thousand Telugu speaking students in the United States of America (USA) working on Optional Practical Training (OPT) run the risk of deportation; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider taking up their problems with USA Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) There are no specific inputs to suggest that any large group of Indian students staying legally in the U.S. are currently facing the risk of deportation.

Government of India remains engaged with the United States Administration and the Congress in regard to all issues relating to the Indian students including their training and employment.

Religious persecutions

2432. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any report on any religious persecutions taking place in Afghanistan and Pakistan after 1947 and in Bangladesh after 1971 for which the people of different religions had to come to India for shelter;

(b) if so, the details of religious persecutions taken place in those countries;

(c) the number of people who have come to India due to this, country-wise and religion-wise; and

(d) the number of total Hindu Bengali families who are taking shelter in Assam due to such persecutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) to (d) Government carefully monitors political and social developments in India's neighbourhood. It has taken up developments of concern as appropriate with neighbouring Governments, including those of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Various religious minorities in Pakistan have over the years faced several difficulties in practising their faiths. The Government has emphasized the need to ensure the well being of religious minorities to obviate pressure resulting in their movement to other countries, including India. There are not authoritative statistics in this matter.

Identification of post offices for passport services

2433. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of post offices that have been identified for passport services in the country;