

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1195
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2021

PERSECUTION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

†1195. **Dr. KIRODI LAL MEENA:**

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of incidents of persecution of religious minorities in neighbouring countries, particularly in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken up the issue with other countries at any forum and at any UN forum or any other international forum;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (e) From time to time, there have been reports of violence and harassment against members of minority communities in neighbouring countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

These incidents are a matter of concern to the Government and as such are raised with the respective countries at bilateral levels.

Upon occurrence of incidents of sporadic violence against minorities and their places of worship in Afghanistan and Bangladesh, these issues are raised formally as well as informally with the respective interlocutors.

The Governments of Afghanistan and Bangladesh have assured us that they take all possible steps to protect their citizens, including religious minorities.

In Pakistan, incidents of killing, persecution, intimidation, abduction, forced conversions, desecration and vandalism of places of worship of minorities and attacks on their business establishments are regularly reported in the media. The issue of the continued mistreatment of minority communities in Pakistan is highlighted by India through bilateral diplomatic channels and at international fora, including at the United Nations.
