

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 2785
ANSWERED ON – 19/12/2024

ATTACKS ON HINDUS IN BANGLADESH

2785. SHRI SANJAY RAUT

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware of the recent attacks on Hindus and their temples by the extremist groups in Bangladesh during the last three months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereon;
- (c) the number of Hindus displaced or affected by the attacks since last one year, and the steps being taken to provide immediate assistance to the victims; and
- (d) whether Government has raised concerns with Bangladesh regarding the involvement of these extremist groups in such attacks and the subsequent targeting of Hindus and their businesses?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to d) Government are aware of several reports of incidents of violence against Hindus and other minorities, their homes and business establishments and of attacks on temples/ religious places, including in the month of August 2024, across Bangladesh. Government have taken serious note of these incidents and shared their concerns with the Government of Bangladesh.

Reports of attacks on temples and puja mandaps also came to light during the recent Durga Puja festival in Bangladesh. Government had expressed its serious concerns regarding the attack on a Puja mandap in Tantibazar, Dhaka and theft at the Jeshoreshwari Kali temple at Satkhira during Durga Puja 2024. Following these attacks, the Government of Bangladesh had issued instructions for providing special security including deployment of Army and Border Guards Bangladesh to ensure peaceful celebrations of Durga Puja. So far, Government of Bangladesh has arrested reportedly 70 people and 88 cases have been filed in connection with violence involving minorities.

The High Commission of India in Dhaka continues to monitor the situation related to the minorities in Bangladesh closely. The primary responsibility for the protection of life and liberty of all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh.
