

15-Point Programmes to protect the interests of Minorities

3093. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced 15-Point specially designed programmes to protect the interests of the minorities;

(b) if so, whether Government have been successful in protecting the life and property of the minorities under the said programmes;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to recast the existing programmes to ensure non-discrimination against the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The 15-point programme seeks to ensure that a feeling of security is instilled in the minds of the minorities, that there is no discrimination, and that the minorities get a fair share in the various developmental programmes. The Ministry of Home Affairs has set up a Rapid Action Force charges with the special task of quelling communal riots. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments on the measures for prevention of riots, dealing with situation arising out of riots and providing relief and rehabilitation to the riot victims. It has been reported that the Hindu-Muslim communal situation in the country is steadily improving since 1994. There have been some incidents of violence involving Christians and their institutions in the country in recent years and the concerned State Governments have taken prompt action to bring the culprits to book.

(d) Action is being taken to recast the programme in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments.