

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 19.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
INDIAN PRIESTS IN TEMPLE IN NEPAL .

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Shri Prabhat Jha

Will the Minister of COALCOALEXTERNAL AFFAIRSEXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Maoist have opposed the appointment of Indian priests in Pashupatinath temple in Nepal;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government has started any dialogue process with Government of Nepal to check anti India sentiments and anti India activities there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when Government is going to initiate this step?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) In December, 2008, during the period of the Maoist-led Government in Nepal, breaking the over 300 year old tradition, the Pashupatinath Area Development Trust (PADT), appointed two Nepalese priests at the Pashupatinath Temple, which was stayed by the Supreme Court of Nepal. Two new Indian priests were appointed and they have started their duties in September, 2009.

(c) to (e) The Government has taken up the matter of use of Nepali territory for anti-Indian activities at various levels, including with the Prime Minister of Nepal during his visit to India from 18 – 22 August, 2009. The Nepalese side assured that it would not allow its territory to be used for any activity against India.