GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 55

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7^{TH} DECEMBER, 2022/ AGRAHAYANA 16, 1944 (SAKA)

MOB LYNCHING CASES IN THE COUNTRY

55. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the preventive, remedial and punitive steps have been taken to combat the crime of lynching, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the data on mob lynching cases, State-wise details during last five years;
- (c) whether Government would provide data on the attacks on religious communities during last five years, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government would make a law to consider lynching a separate offence, as the Supreme Court suggested?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories to States and UTs, from time to time, to maintain law and order and ensure

that any person who takes law into his/her own hand is punished promptly as per law. An advisory dated 04.07.2018 was issued to the States and UTs to keep watch on circulation of fake news and rumours having potential of inciting violence, take all required measures to counter them effectively and to deal firmly with persons taking law into their own hands.

Further, advisories dated 23.07.2018 and 25.09.2018 were issued to the State Governments/UT Administrations for taking measures to curb incidents of mob violence in the country.

(b): In the "Crime in India" report, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) publishes crime data as provided by all States/Union Territories, under various crime heads which are defined under the Indian Penal Code and Special & Local Laws. No separate data for mob lynching is maintained by NCRB.

(c): As per NCRB data, details of cases registered under Communal/Religious Rioting during the year 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021 are given below in table:

Year	Communal/Religious
	Rioting
2017	723
2018	512
2019	438
2020	857
2021	378

It is the intention of the Government to comprehensively review the existing Criminal Laws and make them relevant to the contemporary law and order situation as well as to provide speedy justice to the vulnerable sections of the society and create a legal structure which is citizencentric. The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, in its 146th Report dated 23.06.2010, had recommended that there is a need for a comprehensive review of the Criminal Justice System of the country. Earlier the Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 111th and 128th Reports had also stressed upon the need to reform and rationalize the criminal law of the country by introducing a comprehensive legislation in Parliament rather than bringing about piecemeal amendments in respective Acts. Government is committed to make comprehensive amendments to criminal laws in consultation with all the stakeholders.
