

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 2783
ANSWERED ON – 19/12/2024

CONDITION OF MINORITIES IN BANGLADESH

2783. SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA

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

- (a) the details of the current assessment of Government regarding the status of religious freedom and the protection of minority rights, particularly of the Hindu community, in Bangladesh;
- (b) the details of the specific diplomatic interventions and high-level engagements undertaken by Government with Government of Bangladesh to address the systematic persecution of Hindus, and the targeted attacks on Hindu temples and properties; and
- (c) whether any specific assistance has been provided to the minority community in Bangladesh, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a to c) Government have seen 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.

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.

India's concerns regarding the need to ensure safety and protection of Hindus and all other minority communities in Bangladesh have been conveyed and reiterated to the authorities of the Interim Government of Bangladesh on various occasions, including at the highest level. So far, Government of Bangladesh has reportedly arrested 70 people and 88 cases have been filed in connection with violence involving minorities.

The Government of India continues to monitor the situation related to the minorities in Bangladesh closely. The High Commission of India in Dhaka is also continue to be in regular touch with the authorities of Bangladesh with regard to the welfare of minorities. The primary responsibility for the protection of life and liberty of all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh.
