

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2173**  
ANSWERED ON- 07/08/2025

**PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES**

2173. MS. SUSHMITA DEV

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

- (a) the incidents of violence, persecution or systemic discrimination against religious minorities in neighbouring countries in the last five years;
- (b) the details of any formal diplomatic communications, protests, or démarches issued by India in response to such incidents;
- (c) whether Government has urged these countries to uphold international obligations for the protection of minority communities, in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992), if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the institutional or bilateral mechanisms in place to address issues of minority safety and religious freedom with neighbouring countries?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) The Government of India follows reports of violence and atrocities against religious minorities in the neighbouring countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, on a regular basis.

With regard to Pakistan, since 2021, the Government of India has raised at least 334 major incidents with the Government of Pakistan, urging it to discharge its constitutional obligations towards its citizens, including those from minority communities, and to end sectarian violence, extreme prejudices and religious intolerance. On several occasions, India has highlighted the conditions of minorities and violation of their human rights in Pakistan at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

In case of Bangladesh, at least 3,582 incidents of violence against Hindus and other minorities have been reported since 2021. The Government of India has shared its concerns on the matter with the Government of Bangladesh, including at the highest levels, with the expectation that the Government of Bangladesh will take all necessary measures to ensure safety and welfare of Hindus and other minorities.

As regards Afghanistan, 74 members of minority community, primarily Afghan Sikhs, were evacuated by the Government of India under 'Operation Devi Shakti', following the deteriorating security situation in 2021. Further, the Government of India had strongly condemned the terrorist

attack on Gurudwara Dashmesh Pita Sahib Sri Gobind Sahib Ji in Kabul on 18 June 2022, which targeted innocent civilian population.

The Government of India continues to impress upon the respective Governments that the primary responsibility of the protection of life, liberty and rights of all citizens, including from the minority communities, rests with them.

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