

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2306**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 02<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY, 2018/ PAUSHA 12, 1939 (SAKA)**

**RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE**

**2306. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether Religious tolerance has deteriorated and violation of religious freedom have increased in the recent years in the country;**

**(b) if so, the details thereof;**

**(c) whether religious minority communities and Dalits are facing discrimination and persecution due to a combination of overly broad or ill-defined laws, inefficient criminal justice system and lack of jurisprudential consistency in the country;**

**(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;**

**(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation; and**

**(f) whether a particular group is leading the attacks and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

**(a) to (f): “Public Order” and “Police” are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The responsibilities of maintaining law and order, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes including religion related offences rest primarily with the respective State Governments.**

**There are adequate provisions of laws to deal with the cases of discrimination on the basis of race, caste, ethnicity or religion. The Constitution of India guarantees the Right to Freedom of Religion under Article 25 & 26 and violations of such rights are dealt with under extant laws in force. The Constitution of India abolished the practice of untouchability under Article 17. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, was enacted with a view to preventing “atrocities against members of SCs and STs, to provide for Special Courts for the trial of such offences, and relief and rehabilitation of the victims” of atrocities.**

**To maintain communal harmony in the country, the Central Government assists the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in a variety of ways like sharing of information, sending alert messages and advisories, sending Central Armed Police Forces including the composite Rapid Action Force created specially to deal with communal situations to the concerned State Governments/UTs on specific requests and in the modernisation of the State Police Forces.**

**The Central Government issued revised guidelines to promote Communal Harmony in 2008, which, inter alia, lay down standard operating procedures to be put in place to deal with situation arising out of the communal violence.**

**They also delineate preventive and administrative measures to be taken to maintain communal harmony. The law enforcement agencies keep a watch on the activities of organisations having a bearing on communal harmony in the country and requisite legal action is taken, wherever necessary.**

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