

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.804
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2017**

ATTACKS ON MINORITIES ABROAD

804. SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the incidents of religious attacks on minority Hindus living in Bangladesh since the year 1971 till date;**
- (b) whether the Bangladeshi Hindus and also Hindus of other neighbouring countries have taken asylum in India and if so, the details thereof, State/UT and year-wise; and**
- (c) whether the Government has registered its protest with such countries in this regard and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

(a) to (c) Sporadic incidents of violence against members of the minority Hindu community and their properties and places of worship have been reported in Bangladesh. Government of India closely monitors such incidents and regularly conveys its concerns and sensitivities to the Bangladesh Government since the primary responsibility for the protection of life, liberty and property of all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh. Government of Bangladesh has assured us that it investigates these attacks very seriously and takes stern action against the perpetrators.

Government of India has seen reports of persecution, incidents of abduction, forced conversion and marriages of the minority communities, including Hindus in Pakistan. Government has from time to time called upon Pakistan to discharge its obligations towards its citizens, including Hindus, and to look after the well-being, safety and security of its minority communities, including Hindus.

India is not a signatory to the Refugee Convention of 1951 or its 1967 Protocol. Such matters in India have been dealt with under national laws related to foreigners as well as citizenship and naturalization. Government has issued a Gazette Notification on September 8, 2015 amending the Foreigners Act, 1946, to exempt persons belonging to minority communities in Bangladesh and Pakistan, namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, who were compelled to seek shelter in India due to

religious persecution or fear of religious persecution and had entered into India on or before the 31st of December 2014 from the application of certain provisions of the Act in respect of their stay in India.
