

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1599

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH DECEMBER, 2018

HONOURING SOLDIERS BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT

1599. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the British Government has honoured adequately the supreme sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of Indian soldiers, recruited into the British Army during the colonial era, who laid down their lives fighting the World Wars alongside the Allied forces defending the British Empire and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the British Government to honour the martyrdom of nearly 83000 Sikh soldiers who fought in the British Imperial Army alongside the Allied forces in the World Wars I and II, erected a monument for them whilst neglecting the sacrifice of other Indians and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the statue was disfigured on the very day it was erected by the Sikh community and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the British Royals on a state visit spoke disparagingly of the number of the Indians killed in the unprovoked fire opened on unarmed Indians in Amritsar by Colonel Edward Harry Dyer and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government on all of the above issues?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)

राष्ट्रिय मंत्री

(डा. सुभाष भामरे)

(a) The British Government has honoured the supreme sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of Indian soldiers, recruited into the Army during the colonial era, who laid down their lives fighting the World Wars alongside the allied forces defending the British Empire. Many war memorials and cemeteries were built at various places all over the world, including India Gate at New Delhi. Also the Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains the graves of the soldiers of Commonwealth Nations including India, who laid down their lives during world wars. 40 Indians were awarded Victoria Cross during the two World Wars and frontier conflict. Over 13,000 soldiers of Indian Army were decorated with various awards during the World Wars.

(b) to (e): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.
