

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2962
TO BE ANSWERED ON - 08.08.2024

FORCED CONVERSIONS

2962 SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI:
SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:
DR. VINOD KUMAR BIND:
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH SOLANKY:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the reports stating that a large number of tribals pan India being forcibly converted into other religions and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has any data on the number of tribals who have been converted to any other religion during the last ten years, if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Balasore Constituency in Odisha;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the form of schemes, strategies to reinforce the pride of the population in their tribal identity;
- (d) the penal measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the perpetrators of the aforementioned coercion and forced conversions; and
- (e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken or introduced by the Government to safeguard tribal converts from social retaliation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (e): The subject matter of the question pertains to Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that:

“ ‘Public Order’ and ‘Police’ are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Hence prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of offences, including matter related to religious conversions are primarily the concerns of the State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administrations. Action is taken as per existing laws by the law enforcing agencies, whenever instances of violation come to notice. It is also stated that specifically no data related to religious conversions is maintained centrally. Further, a writ petition (c) No. 63 of 2022, titled, ‘Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay Vs Union of India and Ors’ on the subject matter of Religious Conversion, is presently sub-judice before the Hon’ble Supreme Court.”
