

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of a Hindi Bhawan at New York;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objective of this Bhawan; and

(d) the contribution of the Government for its construction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government has no such proposal.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Attacks on Minority Communities Abroad

2801. SHRI KESRI LAL:

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR:

DR. GUNWANT RAMBHAU SARODE:

DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA GHANGARE:

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:

SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temples demolished in Pakistan, Bangladesh and some other countries after the Ayodhya incident, country-wise;

(b) the country-wise extent of loss of property belonging to minority communities;

(c) the number of persons of minority communities including Hindus killed in each

country;

(d) whether the Government have held any talks with these countries in this regard; and

(e) if so, the response of these countries thereto, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAIMON KHURSHEED): (a) to (c).

Pakistan

More than 240 temples, 2 gurudwaras and one church were attacked and damaged. Houses and shops belonging to the minority community in various towns of Pakistan were damaged and set on fire. Thirty three members of minority community, including Hindus, were killed. Foreign Secretary as well as our High Commissioner in Islamabad have informed the Government of Pakistan that their statements on the developments in Ayodhya amounted to an interference in our internal affairs.

Bangladesh

Reportedly, 305 temples were damaged or destroyed. Thirteen hundred houses, and 270 commercial establishments belonging to the minority community were destroyed. Five persons of the minority community were reportedly killed and a large number injured. Government has conveyed to the Government of Bangladesh that the violent actions in Bangladesh, which resulted in excessive damage to and destruction of hundreds of temples, houses, commercial establishments and other properties had caused untold suffering and deep insecurity among the people belonging to minority communities in Bangladesh.

Among other countries, in Afghanistan, 4 temples and 3 gurudwaras were reportedly

damaged. Our Ambassador in Kabul raised this matter with Minister of State for Foreign affairs of Afghanistan on 7th & 8th December, 1992. The Afghan Minister while expressing regret over the incident assured protection for places of worship.

In UAE, There was a serious damage caused to an Indian School building in Al Ain. One wing of the School was gutted by fire. Some shops and business establishments run by Indian Nationals were also damaged by arson.

Our Mission took up the matter with the authorities concerned in UAE, who took prompt and effective action to contain the violence and to prevent their recurrence.

In United Kingdom, 18 temples/cultural centres were damaged. Incidents of arson, petrol bombing and brick attacks were reported. No deaths have been reported as a result of these incidents.

Our High Commissioner in London called on the British Home Secretary and conveyed our concern. He also remained in constant touch with leaders of the Indian origin communities as well as Members of Parliament and Police in various parts of the United Kingdom with a view to promoting peace and communal harmony.

[English]

Grant to Commercial Carnival, Goa

2802. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any grant to the Commercial Carnival to be organised by the Government

of Goa at Panjim;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many prominent citizens and activist groups have opposed the revival of this carnival; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The Central Department of Tourism have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 12 lacs as assistance to the Government of Goa for organising the Goa Carnival.

(c) and (d). There was some protest from a section of the public against organising the Carnival. However, the Carnival was organised by the Government of Goa in a decent and ethical manner and depicted themes on National Intergration. The Carnival attracted large crowds including tourists.

New Telephone Exchanges in Kerala

2803. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH:
SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in Kerala during 1993-94; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise alongwith the type of equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The district-wise details of exchanges are given in the Statement attached.