

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:315
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2000
ANNUAL REPORT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have studied the recent Annual Report of Amnesty International and its observations regarding the Indian scene;
- (b) the details of adverse observations made by the Amnesty International in relation to India;
- (c) whether there has been a spurt in custodial deaths of under-trials and political detenus in India; and
- (d) if so, whether the National Human Rights Commission has commented upon adversely on this?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a),(b)(c) and (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPONSE TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.315 FOR 21.11.2000

(a)and (b): The Government is aware of the Amnesty International Report 2000 which pertains to several countries throughout the world. The Chapter on India in the said report contains generalised allegations stating that deaths in custody continue to be widespread throughout all States, various forms of torture, including rape, continued to be used by the Police and Security Forces, that there was an increase in attacks on religious minorities notably Christians and Muslims, the socially and economically weaker sections of society and women remained particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses, that Human Rights Defenders came under attack from both the State and other powerful interests etc. Amnesty International has been making such wild and unfounded allegations of a sweeping and generalised nature in their previous reports as well.

(c)and (d): There has been a decline in the number of custodial deaths during 1999-2000 as compared to the previous year. As per available information, the number of deaths in Police and Judicial custody during 1999-2000 were 177 and 916 respectively. National Human Rights Commission has, from time to time issued directions to the concerned authorities to take steps to curb custodial deaths.