

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4815
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
FATE OF SIKH AND HINDU FAMILIES IN AFGHANISTAN
BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU;DUMPA MARY VIJAYAKUMARI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fate of Sikh and Hindu families in Afghanistan's Kandahar town hangs in balance as reported in the Asian Age dated October 18, 2000;
- (b) if so, the factual position in this regard; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) to (c) : The Government is aware of the news report in the Asian Age on 18th October, 2000. While India does not have any official representation in Afghanistan, Government is generally aware that the Taliban who subscribe to obscurantist ideologies pursue a policy of harsh discrimination against minorities including religious minorities. Government has drawn the attention of its foreign interlocutors to these discriminatory policies.