

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:603

ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001

ATTACKS ON HINDUS IN BANGLADESH

AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;BALARAMA KRISHNA MURTHY KARNAM;BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI;NIVEDITA MANE;PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY;PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL;PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI;RAM SINGH KASWAN;RENU KUMARI SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attacks on Hindus and their migration have increased ever since the installation of a new Government in Bangladesh in October, 2001;
- (b) if so the details thereof;
- (c) whether the matter has been taken up with the Bangladesh Government; and
- (d) if so the reaction of the Bangladesh Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

a to c) The Government has noted with concern recent reports of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh. After the new Government assumed power in Bangladesh on October 10, 2001, the Government of India's serious concern was conveyed at different levels, including during the visit of the Special Envoy of Prime Minister to Dhaka from October 26-27, 2001.

d) The Government of Bangladesh have stated categorically that firm action would be taken to protect the minorities and to punish the perpetrators of violence against them. The Government of Bangladesh have recently set up a special committee headed by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to enquire into these attacks.