

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1196
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2003
OBSERVATIONS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have examined the latest report of Amnesty International in which the charge of persecution has been minority levelled against India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the National Human Rights Commission has issued a rejoinder to the Amnesty International's observations on the minority status in India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government provide free and fair access to the observers of Amnesty International on their visits to jails/prisons and detention camps; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): Amnesty International is an International NGO based in London and is one among the many NGOs based outside India which brings out reports on alleged human rights violations, from time to time, all over the world including India. The methods used by such organizations to gather information have often been questioned, particularly as they are not free from bias. It is not the policy of the Government to react to such reports by International NGOs on internal matters of India. National Human Rights Commission has also not issued any rejoinder.

(e)&(f): Observers from Amnesty International undertake visits to India from time to time for studying Human Rights issues. However, observers of International Human Rights Organizations including Amnesty International are permitted to visit jails/prisons and detention camps only with prior permission.