

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3821

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE BILL

Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Patil Shri C. R.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring forward the Prevention of Communal Violence Bill;
- (b) if so, the details and the objectives thereof;
- (c) whether several States have raised opposition to the provisions of the Bill;
- (d) if so, the details of the grounds on which the States have expressed their reservations on the Bill; and
- (e) the efforts being taken by the Government to address the issues raised by the States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) to (e): A Bill titled "The Prevention of Communal Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2014" containing many progressive provisions was prepared and Notice for its introduction was given in the Rajya Sabha during the current session of the Parliament. The Bill, inter alia, seeks to uphold secular democracy and to respect, protect and fulfil the right to equality before law and equal protection of law by requiring the Central Government and the State Governments, to exercise their powers in an impartial and non-discriminatory manner, to prevent and control communal violence, to secure fair and equal access to justice and protection to victims of communal violence through effective provisions for investigation, prosecution and trial of offences and to provide for remedy and reparations to all persons affected by communal violence; and for matters connected herewith and incidental thereto.

The draft Bill was duly shared and discussed with various States/UTs and other concerned stakeholders. The States, inter alia, wanted to ensure that the executive functions of the State Governments continue to be exercised by them as enshrined in the Constitution. The proposed Bill would go through parliamentary scrutiny and debate and thus all the aspects would be put into comprehensive examination before its enactment.

However, the introduction of the Bill was deferred by the House after a discussion in the Rajya Sabha on 5.2.2014.