

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:660
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2016
Religious Discrimination of Indians in US
Singh Shri Bhola

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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- (a) the details of instances of Indians being killed/humiliated in the name of religion or race in USA during the last three years;
- (b) whether hate messages were seen scribbled on the walls of Hindu temples and gurdwaras in the US in the recent past and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by the Government to stop such incidents in future and ensure safety and security of Indians abroad?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) There are no clear indications to suggest racial or religious attacks generally directed against Indians in the United States. In the last three years, one incident of an Indian national being attacked in the name of religion has been brought to the notice of this Ministry. On December 26, 2015, a 68-year old Indian national, who was wearing a turban, was attacked in Fresno, California. The police had arrested the culprits. There have been some other incidents involving Indian Americans.

(b) Three incidents of vandalism of/attack on Hindu Temples have come to the notice of this Ministry. The details are as follows:

(i) On February 14, 2015, graffiti was painted on the outer wall of a Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Bothell, near Seattle in Washington State. The police filed a report in this regard.

(ii) On February 27, 2015, the Sanatan Dharma Hindu Temple located in Kent, near Seattle in Washington State was damaged. Graffiti was also sprayed. Local police was investigating the matter. No arrests have been made so far.

(iii) In April 2015, a small tool shed attached to North Texas Hindu Mandir, a temple near Dallas, Texas, was broken into. The temple walls were desecrated with graffiti. Following the incident, Dallas Police increased patrolling in the area.

(c) Government of India is sensitive to such incidents. Missions and Posts remain vigilant and closely monitor any untoward incidents. These issues are regularly raised during meetings with the US Government officials. Government brings to the attention of US federal and local authorities any incidents seen as 'hate crimes' or racial attacks. The representatives of the Indian-American community and members of India Caucus in the US Congress and Senate have been impressed upon to take up such cases of serious assault for further investigation. The safety and security of Indians abroad is among the top diplomatic priorities for the Government of India.