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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 4636

ANSWERED ON: 18.04.2001

PROTECTION TO PLACES OF WORSHIP IN AFGHANISTAN

JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of Hindu, Jain temples and Sikh Gurudwaras in Afghanistan; and
- (b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure their protection?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a)-(b) Government have received reports of the existence of Gurudwaras and temples in Afghanistan. However in the absence of any official representation it is not possible to ascertain details of these Gurudwaras and temples including their present condition. At the same time Government is aware of Taliban's obscurantist ideologies and harsh discriminatory practices against religious minorities and their places of worship. Government has drawn the attention of its foreign interlocutors to these policies.