

The strategies, tactics and dynamic deployment to counter the terrorists are constantly reviewed, refined and monitored at various levels in the State and Central Governments.

(c) The matter is under investigation. However, so far no arrest has been made in this connection nor any terrorist outfit has claimed the responsibility for the incident.

Condition of Kashmiri Pandits

2274. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kashmiri Pandits who left their homes in the wake of terrorist and militants offensive living in refugee camps in Jammu or elsewhere;

(b) when are they likely to be sent to their own homes in Kashmir;

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that their homes, property and land are not grabbed by unscrupulous persons and returned to the legitimate owners; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to facilitate the refugees to take part in the ensuing assembly polls;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) As per information available, 56246 families have migrated from the Valley. Of these, 34305 families are staying in Jammu, 19338 families in Delhi and 2603 families in other States. 238 Kashmiri migrant families are living in 14 camps in Delhi and 4778 families in 12 camps in Jammu. Others are living under their own arrangements. Community-wise break up of Kashmiri migrant families is not available except for Jammu which is as follows:—

Hindus	-	30306
Muslims	-	2016
Sikhs	-	1960
Others	-	23
		33618

(b) As informed by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir the return of the Kashmiri migrants to the valley with honour and dignity is one of the topmost priority of the State Government. Government of J&K has formulated an Action- plan for the Return and Rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants. The Action-plan envisages rehabilitation grant per family @ Rs. 1.50 lakhs; grant for repair of houses @Rs. 1 lakh for houses intact and Rs. 3 lakhs for houses damaged; grant for household goods @ Rs. 0.50 lakhs and furniture @ Rs. 0.50 lakhs; interest free loan @ Rs. 1-2 lakhs per person; compensation for loss of income from agriculture upto Rs. 1.50 lakhs per family; interest free loan of Rs. 1.50 lakhs per family for investment in agricultural operations, and sustenance of Rs. 2,000 per month for one year.

In order to achieve the objective expeditiously, the Action-plan is to be implemented in phases which envisages return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrant families in areas where clusters of Kashmiri migrant houses are available in villages/mohallas in the Kashmir Valley districts with sizeable Kashmiri population and where security is already being provided. Out of the first phase of Rs. 43.94 crores for 2122 families, the State Government has identified 166 houses forming 15 clusters in the Snnagar and Budgam districts which are considered safe for the return of their Kashmiri migrant owners. The process of contacting the owners of these houses and seeking their consent for return on the basis of the Action-plan rehabilitation announced by the State Government is reported to be in progress. According to available reports, none of these families have, so far, agreed to return to the Valley.

(c) In order to preserve, protect and restrain the distress sale of migrants' properties left behind in the Valley, Government of J&K have enacted two important pieces of legislation namely 'J&K Migrants Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint of Distress Sales) Act, 1997' and 'J&K Migrants (Stay of Proceedings) Act, 1997'. The former Act is intended to prevent distress sale and to ensure that properties of the migrants are protected from vandalism and unauthorised occupation. The Act also lays down procedure for sale of immovable property of the migrants so as to protect the property from distress sales.

(d) As informed by the State Government, The Election Commission of India has recently issued direction that electronic voting machines will be installed/placed also at various camps where the migrants are residing.

[12 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

This is in addition to the facility/option of exercising their vote through postal ballot.

Misuse of POTA

2275. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Members of Parliament to prevent the misuse of POTA;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is proposed to make suitable amendments in POTA to prevent the use of its provisions for political vendetta and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) No formal representation has been made by any Member of Parliament citing any particular case in which Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (POTA) has been misused. However, apprehensions were expressed by some Members of Parliament about possible misuse of POTA at the time of consideration of the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha as well as in the Joint sitting of the two Houses. In the context of arrest of MDMK leader Shri Vaiko, some Members have again raised the issue of misuse of POTA in the Parliament.

Since necessary safeguards are available in the Act against its possible misuse, no change is contemplated in the provisions of POTA.

Proposal to include Dogri in the Eighth Schedule

2276. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 661 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill, to include Dogri language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, during the current session of Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?