

[24 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) the number of infiltrations during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the infiltration and the growing militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir;

(e) whether a concerted approach is proposed to be developed in this regard in tandem with the Jammu and Kashmir Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Though, it is difficult to assess the exact figures of infiltration, however, on assessment of available trends appear to indicate that there has been a decline in the level of infiltration this year compared with the last year.

(d) to (f) In addition to diplomatic initiatives at various levels and redeployment of troops at borders/LoC the Government, conjointly with the State Government, has adopted a multi-pronged approach, to contain cross border terrorism perpetrated by the Pak ISI in Jammu and Kashmir, which includes, *inter-alia*, strengthening border management to check infiltration pro-active action against terrorists within J&K; gearing up intelligence machinery; greater functional integration through an institutional framework of Operation Groups and Intelligence Groups of the UHQ at all levels, improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces and action as per law against over-ground supports of the terrorists.

Rehabilitation of youth rescued from the clutches of terrorist groups

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

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the youth rescued from the clutches of terrorist groups have confessed that they were lured to take up anti-national activities due to poverty and unemployment;

(b) if so, the number of youth who have laid down arms and how they are proposed to be rehabilitated in the society; and

(c) what steps are being taken to prevent educated unemployment youth from falling prey to anti-national outfits who have sufficient foreign monetary support to exploit needy youth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per confessions of arrested/rescued youth by security forces from the clutches of terrorist organizations in Jammu and Kashmir, to sustain militancy in the State, agencies across the border have been using all types of methods to lure the gullible youth to join terrorist rank. Besides religious dogma and coercion, monetary considerations are also used. Since 1991 upto 2002 (upto 15th July, 3292 terrorists have laid down their arms in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) Government of Jammu and Kashmir has taken various measures to counter terrorism in the State, which include:—

- (i) State Government has provided jobs approximately to one lakh unemployed youths;
- (ii) Soft loans from banks arranged for unemployed youth to start their own business;
- (iii) Revival of tourist industry;
- (iv) A number of steps have been taken to promote the handicrafts outside the State. The handicraft centres which were almost closed, have been restored not only to promote the handicrafts but also create employment avenues for the youth;
- (v) Record number of pilgrims have started paying obeisance at Amarnath and Mata Vaishno Devi, giving boost to the economic activities in the State;
- (vi) Government has announced surrender policy for the misguided youth and incentives are being provided followed by their rehabilitation to make them capable of earning dignified livelihood after going through various vocational courses.