

Special Economic Package to Jammu and Kashmir

2948. SHRI MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the infrastructure of every developed Department in the Jammu and Kashmir State has been demolished during Proxy-war unleashed from across the Line of Control during the last more than two decades; and

(b) if so, whether Government would give a special Economic Package to Jammu and Kashmir also on the lines of North-Eastern States and Punjab so that devastated infrastructure could be rebuilt on war footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (b) The infrastructure in J and K has suffered as a result of terrorist activities. The extent of damage has been assessed by the State Government of J and K at Rs. 444.94 crores in July, 1997. A sum of Rs. 9464.18 crores has been released to the State of J and K as Central Assistance for State Annual Plans during the period from 1997-98 to 2000-01 which also includes Rs. 284.10 crores for the reconstruction of roads and bridges, school buildings and other infrastructure damaged due to militancy in the State.

Saral Forms for Filing Income Tax Returns

2949. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new Saral Forms for filing Income Tax Return are made complicated with many annexures;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what will be the impact of such complicated return forms to be filled in by the common man; and

(d) what steps are being taken to simplify the filing of returns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The