

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps so far in this regard for protection of life and property of the minorities and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Bangladesh have been apprised of the Indian Government's reaction to the brutal and inhuman killings of the minorities and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) to (d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 515.*]

Construction of Indian Embassy Building in Brazil

530. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Brazil had gifted a land in 1965 to the Indian Embassy in Brasilia for construction of an Embassy Complex;

(b) whether the Embassy Complex had been constructed on the gifted land;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) how much amount was paid as rent of leased Buildings, expenditure on Property taxes, local taxes, etc. as on the 31st March, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Government of Brazil had gifted a plot of land to the Government of India in 1965 for construction of an Embassy complex. The Government had initiated steps at various points of time for undertaking construction project including engagement of an architect for conceptual layout plan and for determination of estimated cost of construction. The economic viability of the project is yet to be established. The main reason being high cost of construction prevailing in Brazil compared with relatively lower rental structure. The cost of construction in Brazil at US \$1,000 per sq. meter is extremely exorbitant, whereas in most of the other countries the cost of construction is in the range of US \$ 400-500 per sq. meter.

(d) The rental paid in Brazil in the past 20 years works out to Rs. 11.2 crores. The Annual rental liability to the Government in respect of leased

buildings in Brazil is Rs. 1.18 crores as against the total annual rental liability on leased buildings in foreign countries of Rs. 142.16 crores.

Migration of Minorities from Bangladesh

531. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people belonging to minority communities are coming to India due to fear, after installation of new Government in neighbouring country of Bangladesh;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the action taken to express Government's concern over deterioration in situation following attacks on minorities;

(d) whether Government had sent any envoy to draw attention of the Bangladesh Government; and

(e) if so, his name and the results of the dialogue held?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) to (e) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 515.*]

Musharraf's reported statement about freedom of Jammu and Kashmir

532. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned Musharraf see freedom for Jammu and Kashmir, appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 23rd August, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan President has praised Kashmiris who died fighting Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir and said freedom is around the corner for its people; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the report appearing in the Hindustan Times on 23rd August 2001.