

Modernization (PM) schemes, the Planning Commission has included 55 naxal affected districts under the Backward Districts Initiative (BDI) component of their Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) so as to fill in the critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure in these areas. The scheme provides for an additionality of Rs. 15 crores per year per district for a period of 3 years starting from 2003-04. The Ministry of Rural Development has also earmarked Rs. 37.50 crores as an additional allocation to execute rural roads in the naxalite affected areas under the PMGSY.

Security to tourists visiting J & K

19. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government to provide security to tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir during the current year; and

(b) the details to the steps the Union Government propose to take to ensure that both tourists and pilgrims visiting Jammu and Kashmir are safe from militancy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The State Government of J&K has been taking security measures for the tourists visiting the State. Security Forces/J&K Police have all along been engaged in ensuring adequate area dominance and security at and around places of tourist interest and also the routes leading to tourist destinations. In addition, unobtrusive surveillance is being mounted at these places so as to deter terrorists from indulging in any violence.

Similar arrangements are being made to provide security to the pilgrims going to Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine at Katra and Shri Amarnathji. Besides, strengthening the security set-up around Katra town and route leading to the holy cave, adequate security arrangements have also been made for the pilgrims coming from various parts of the country by train or road up to the holy place.

Union Government provides necessary support to the State Government on the basis of their request. Government also continuously monitors the security situation.