

Visa-free entry for Bangladesh nationals

296. DR. PRADEEPKUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has rejected the proposal of Visa-free entry regime for Bangladesh nationals into India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) and (b) It has been decided to drop the proposal for grant of visa-free entry to Bangladesh nationals under the age of 18 years and persons over the age of 65 years after consultation with concerned Ministries/agencies.

Rehabilitation package for Kashmiri pandits

297. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided about the rehabilitation package for Kashmiri pandits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government of Jammu and Kashmir had earlier announced any package to this effect; and

(d) if so, whether the State Government has been consulted in this regard and how the new package is likely to be different from the earlier package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Government from time to time has announced packages for return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Migrants such as in 2004 and in 2008.

Under Prime Minister's Package 2004, 5242 two room tenements have been constructed in Jammu at four locations [Purkhoo, Muthi, Nagrota and Jagti] and have been allotted to the migrants, who were living in various one room tenements, Government Buildings, Temples etc. in Jammu. Further, 200 flats have been constructed at Sheikhpora in Budgam district (Kashmir Valley) and have been allotted to the migrants on sharing basis, who have joined the Government service under employment component of Prime Minister's Package 2008. Out of these 200 flats, 31 flats have also been allotted to the local migrants (who migrated from their native places to other places within the Kashmir Valley).

A Comprehensive Package amounting to ₹1618.40 crore has been announced by the Government in 2008 for return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Migrants, which provides for many comprehensive facilities for the migrants e.g. financial assistance for purchase/