

**Visa-free entry for Bangladesh nationals**

296. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR 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/

construction of houses, repair/renovation of damaged houses and dilapidated unused houses, construction of transit accommodation, continuations of cash relief to migrants, students scholarship, employment, assistance to the agriculturists and the horticulturist and waiver of interest on unpaid loan etc.

The Package is being implemented by the Jammu and Kashmir Government and till now, one family has returned to the Valley availing the benefit of ₹ 7.5 lakh for construction of house. 1474 State Government jobs have been provided to the migrant youths. 505 Transit accommodations have been constructed in the Kashmir Valley [Vessu (Kulgam) - 250, Khanpur (Baramulla) - 130, Hawal (Pulwama) - 65, Kupwara - 60] and allotted to newly appointed migrant employees under the Package.

(d) The plans/packages in this respect are generally made in consultation with the State Government. The Prime Minister's Package-2008 was also prepared in consultation with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Prime Minister's Package-2008 is different from the Package announced in the year 2004 as it provides for many comprehensive facilities for the migrants *e.g.* financial assistance for purchase/construction of houses, repair/renovation of damaged houses and dilapidated/unused houses, construction of transit accommodation, continuations of cash relief to migrants, students scholarship, employment, assistance to the agriculturists and the horticulturist and waiver of interest on unpaid loan etc. while under Prime Minister's Package 2004, financial assistance was provided by the Government for construction of flats/tenements for the migrants in Jammu and the Kashmir Valley.

The review of such plans and packages is a continuous process and will continue to remain so in order to remove the bottlenecks and shortcomings, if any.

#### **Racial discrimination against migrants from North-East in Delhi/NCR**

298. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has taken serious note of the recurring incidents of racial discrimination and assault against migrants from North-East in Delhi/NCR;

(b) whether students and others from the North-East living in Delhi are constantly subjected to a kind of apartheid by the local communities and otherwise exploited by landlords and shopkeepers; and

(c) whether the Centre has set up a Committee comprising of law, enforcement professional officers from various NE States to monitor and oversee the functioning of the law enforcement agencies in Delhi to provide protection and dignity to the migrants from the North-East?