

[14 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes Sir, the Government intends to pursue a dialogue with all groups and with different shades of opinion in Jammu & Kashmir on a sustained basis, in consultation with the democratically elected State Government. The Government is also committed to peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues with Pakistan.

(b) to (d) The Government already had two rounds of talks with the Hurriyat then headed by Maulana Abbas Ansari and further talks would be held with the Hurriyat and other groups in the State which come forward for talks, on dates convenient to them, in consultation with the democratically elected State Government.

Abrogation of POTA

339. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of reports about misuse of POTA by different State Governments, Government have examined the desirability of abrogating this Act;

(b) if so, what decision has since been taken in the matter; and

(c) what line of action in this regard has been incorporated in the Common Minimum Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government has initiated action in the matter of repeal of POTA.

(c) The Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) lays down that "the UPA has been concerned with the manner in which POTA has been grossly misused in the past two years. There will be no compromise in the fight against terrorism. But given the abuse of POTA that has taken place, the UPA Government will repeal it, while existing laws are enforced strictly."

Responsibility of internal security to CRPF

†340. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of handing over the responsibility of complete

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.