

Relief to displaced persons at LoC

†2845. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons displaced by the deployment of army at large scale on Line of Control and International Border in Jammu and Kashmir alongwith the details of the villages;

(b) the details of the arrangements made for the displaced persons for their shelter and food etc. since the time of displacement and whether there is any scheme to send them back to their homes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Due to the shelling by Pakistan and military build up along the Line of Control/International Border in December, 2001, 26142 families comprising 1,32,993 persons were affected in Jammu region as per Information available. Some of these families have been accommodated properly in the Government buildings and tented accommodation in the various camps established by the State Government in the districts of Jammu, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch and are being provided blankets etc. and all other civic amenities. The Relief Package sanctioned by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir is also being provided to the migrant families. The Government have recently decided to relocate the troops without compromising the capacity to respond decisively to any emergency, and without lowering of vigil in Jammu & Kashmir.

Purchase of arms and aircrafts on geo-political strategic consideration

2846. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have recently decided that all major international purchases such as arms and aircraft will now be awarded on the basis of geo-political strategic consideration and not on price consideration; and

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

†Original notice of the quoston was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Procurement of defence items is made on technical and commercial considerations as per the procurement procedure of the Ministry of Defence.

Families affected by Pakistan's shelling on the border

2847. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families affected adversely and injured on account of Pakistan's shelling on the border/LoC, the State-wise and year-wise details during the last three years;

(b) the details of houses damaged and instances of loss of life and property on account of deployment of the army on the border during the same period State-wise; and

(c) the amount of compensation given to families therefor and measures adopted for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) As per information available, the approximate number of families affected in the States along the Line of Control & International Border on account of shelling by Pakistan, during the last three years, are as follows:-

Jammu & Kashmir	—	32182
(Jammu region)		
Punjab	—	265
Gujarat	—	Nil
Rajasthan	—	Nil

(b) No houses were damaged or lives lost because of the deployment of the army, but a few persons, cattle & livestock were killed due to land mine blasts.

(c) Total amount paid/being paid to the State Governments for compensation for occupation of land and building by the Army during the period of mobilization comes to approximately Rs. 300 crore.

In Punjab the displaced families have returned to their native villages on easing of tension. In Jammu & Kashmir the State Government has provided a relief package to the displaced families, some of whom have