

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Killing of informers by militants in J&K

1462. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI ABU ASIMAZMI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of informers have been killed in Kashmir valley by the militants;

(b) if so, the number of such persons killed during the last three months; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had not provided sufficient securities to them which has resulted in their murders and if so, what are the reasons therefor and the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) During the last three months (*i.e.* November 2002- January 2003) 183 Civilians [Which include, among other Special Police Officers (SPOs) and members of Village Defence Committee (VDCs) as well] have been killed in Jammu & Kashmir by the terrorists. A few of the civilians, who have been killed, were informers of security forces.

(c) It will not be appropriate on the part of Government to provide physical security to the informers as the minute they are provided security they will get exposed as civilians who provide information about terrorists to the Security Forces. However, they are given support to ensure their own self defence by providing arms/ammunition and wireless sets to them wherever feasible.