

**Raising of local battalions in Jammu and Kashmir**

2866. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering raising of local battalions in Jammu and Kashmir on the pattern of the North-East to help the unemployed rural youths to earn their livelihood; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Raising of local battalions of police falls within the purview of the State Government. Accordingly, no such proposal is under the consideration of the Central Government.

**Dialogue to resolve Kashmir issue**

2867. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interlocutor appointed by the Central Government to start the process of dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir has started his work with the leaders of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether dialogue with separatist leaders including the Hurriyat Conference has also been permitted and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the National Conference leaders including the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir would also be invited for the talks and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the net outcome of the talks is likely to be made public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Shri N.N. Vohra who has been appointed as the Government of India's representative to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with the elected representatives, various organisations and concerned individuals in the State of J&K made a two day visit to J&K on 5th and 6th March, 2003 where he had preliminary meetings with Constitutional figures in the State *i.e.* Governor, Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Speaker of Legislative