

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:745
ANSWERED ON:29.02.2000
REHABILITATION OF KASHMIRI PANDITS
RATTAN LAL KATARIA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Kashmiri Pandits living as refugees in the country;
- (b) the steps taken to rehabilitate these Kashmiri Pandits;
- (c) whether the objective of the militants is to force the migration of the Hindu families from the valley; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb insurgencies in Jammu and Kashmir ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH.VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)to(d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in r/o parts (a)to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.745 for reply on 29.2.2000

(a) As per available information, 51,122 Kashmiri migrant families are living in different parts of the country. Out of these, 29074 and 19338 families are staying in Jammu and Delhi respectively.

(b) As per the policy of the Government, permanent rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants outside the Valley is not envisaged. Efforts have been made to minimise their difficulties and hardships while they are outside the State. The Government of J&K has informed that issue regarding return of Kashmiri migrants is on top of its agenda and it is contemplating an action plan for safe and early return of migrants to the Valley.

(c)&(d) Targeted attacks by the militants against innocent civilians including the members of the Kashmiri Pandit community forced a vast majority of Kashmiri Pandits to flee the Valley.

Necessary assistance including deployment of para-military forces, weapons and financial assistance is being provided to the State Government with a view to teckling the militancy/terrorism in J&K. Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, inter-alia, strengthening the border management protection of minorities neutralising plans of the militancy by proactive action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through as institutional framework of Operations Groups and Intelligence Groups, etc.