

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1123  
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2003  
SEPARATE TERRITORY FOR KASHMIRI PANDITS  
GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the representatives of Kashmiri Pandits in the month of September, 2003 met the Deputy Prime Minister and demanded separate Union territory on the lines of Chandigarh within the State;
- (b) if so, the other demands made by them; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government in this matter?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI )

(a): A delegation of Panun Kashmir met Dy. Prime Minister on 2nd September 2003 and demanded, inter alia, a separate homeland for Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley.

(b): The other demands made by them included setting up a high-powered committee for early return of Kashmiri Migrants to the Valley, nation-wide Census of Kashmiri Pandits, exemption from payment of Income-tax for Migrants from the Valley and employment opportunities for Kashmiri Pandit youths.

(c): The demands viz. creation of a separate homeland for Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley, nation-wide census of Kashmiri Pandits and total exemption from payment of Income-tax for migrants from the Valley cannot be met due to constitutional and legal implications.. Regarding other demands, the Government of India has been working in close association with the State Government to mitigate their hardship and problems.