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Title: Need to provide better salaries and facilities to Members of the Village Defence Committees in Jammu & Kashmir. – Laid.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (UDHAMPUR): It is a matter of great concern that thousands of youths of the State of J&K have voluntarily joined the Village Defence Committee (VDC)/SPO at various levels to protect the lives of innocent villages who are facing tremendous pressures from the militant attacks prevailing in different parts of the State. The so-called Task Force have not only shown their capability but their efficiency/credibility has been much better than any other forces. While fighting to save our motherland many have either succumbed to serious injuries or sacrificed their lives in encounters or in ambush. Their sincere efforts cannot be forgotten by our nation.

It is also a fact that with their limited sources of arms they are always ready to challenge any attack from the militancy. To protect themselves they need proper training to use the latest weapons and there should be efforts from the Government to provide them weapons, uniforms, shoes besides presently drawn token money may be enhanced from Rs.460 to Rs.1500 to keep their moral high.

I demand from the Government of India to kindly provide a job security to the next of kin of deceased families who have sacrificed their lives under SRO 43 as made applicable on compassionate grounds appointment. I also further demand that their salaries should be enhanced, at least, at par with Minimum Wages Act so that their sincere efforts are not overlooked.