

Government propose to render in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Medical Colleges

3505. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has issued guidelines for the establishment of new medical colleges in the country;

(b) whether the Government of the Medical Council of India, in consultation with the State Governments have set norms for the total number of medical colleges in any State;

(c) if so, the States which have medical colleges in excess of the norm and the number of such excess colleges, state-wise; and

(d) the States which are short of medical colleges in relation to this norm and the number by which they are short, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Use of Shrines by Militants

3506. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether militants in Kashmir have been using religious shrines as a safe sanctuary;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent the use of shrines by militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) Instances of the militants trying to misuse the religious Shrines for promoting terrorist activities have been observed. In the recent months, attempts have also been made to try and 'damage/desecrate various Shrines in the Kashmir Valley, and try to whip up religious hysteria. 9 such incidents happened since 21 September in Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir Valley. However, by the timely intervention of the police and security forces such attempts were largely foiled and the people did not get provoked.

Security arrangements in vulnerable and sensitive areas have been strengthened and strict vigilance is being exercised to prevent recurrence of such attempts by the militants.