

### Foreign Commandos

3581. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign commandos or other personnel of the military or para-military establishments have been in Kashmir since August this year;

(b) if so, the number of such commandos or other personnel and the countries to which they belong/belonged;

(c) the purpose for which these commandos/other personnel were allowed into Kashmir;

(d) whether the Army officials have expressed their objection to having such foreign personnel on our soil; and

(e) the time by which the Government propose to ask these persons to leave the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (e). Of the six foreign tourists abducted by the militants in J and K in July 1995, one had escaped, one was killed and the remaining 4 belonging to UK, USA and Germany are still in custody of the militants. Government have been making all efforts to bring about the safe release of these persons. From the outset effort of the Government has been to achieve this objective through an approach of dialogue and persuasion and appeal to the sense of reason and humanity of the abductors. In keeping with the policy of transparency, close liaison and contact has also been maintained with the officials of the the Missions of the countries whose nationals were abducted, and their officials have also been facilitated to visit Srinagar. In the process, Government has also agreed to the presence in India of experts of these countries to enable them to make their own assessment of the situation and advice their Missions, and different persons have, at different times, also visited Srinagar in this context. Government has also welcomed any advice and suggestions that may be given by them, and has facilitated interaction by such persons with officials of the State Government and the concerned Security agencies including the Army. However, at no stage has there been any direct involvement or interference by officials/experts of these countries in the actual handling of the situation, nor have they been deployed in any kind of regular or formal manner.

### Carry Forward System of Vacancies

3582. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether carry forward system of vacancies in Public Services for STs and SCs apart from depriving

the ST and SC youth to the job opportunities in the concerned recruitment year is also pre-empting the chances of the youth in open competition in later years;

(b) if so, the Government propose to disperse with the said system by offering jobs immediately to the available ST and SC boys without insisting minimum marks; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) to (c). Instructions relating to carry forward of vacancies do not deprive the candidates belonging to the SC and the ST of the posts reserved for them. On the contrary, these instructions make available in later years posts reserved for the SC and the ST when adequate number of SC/ST candidates are not available in a particular year. In order to ensure that SC and ST candidates can enter Government services apart from providing relaxations in Standards of suitability, the experience and qualifications in direct recruitment can also be relaxed by the competent authority. There is a relaxation of the age limit and exemption from paying fees, for the SC/ST candidates called for interview by the UPSC. They are also entitled to single II class railway fare. For the purpose of filling the backlog of vacancies of the SC/ST special recruitment drives are conducted from time to time. Thus, the existing orders provide for adequate safeguards that posts meant for the SC/ST are filled up by candidates belonging to the SC/ST.

[Translation]

### Taxable Bonds

3583. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Finance Corporation has any proposal to issue taxable bonds;

(b) if so, the details and the value thereof;

(c) whether all formalities have been completed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which bonds are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railway Finance Corporation propose to issue bonds amounting to Rs. 500 crores through public