

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3554

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2001

AMARNATH YATRA

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

(a) whether the Union Government have sent Central Team to Jammu and Kashmir to study the situation after the Amarnath Yatra incident;

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted by the said Central team; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to tackle the situation?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c): Yes Sir. Shri I.D. Swami, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs along with the Special Secretary J&K Affairs in MHA visited Srinagar and Sheshnag on 22.07.2001 to assess the security situation in the State and held detailed discussions with Hon'ble Governor, J&K and security forces and State Government functionaries.

The security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra were strengthened this year in the light of past experience and inputs regarding the designs of the terrorists with the arrangements having been planned out after a series of high-level meetings. The quantum of security forces deployed for Yatra security this time was higher than last year. The functional and territorial jurisdictions and tasks of various forces and units as regards area domination and presence on the heights along the route, road opening parties (RoPs), escort duty, camp security, access control and manning of check posts, anti-sabotage checks etc. had been fixed in advance by the State Government. For the better coordination and planning of security arrangements for the Yatra, an apex body was formed by State Government consisting of all members of the Core Group of UHQ at Srinagar with Chief Executive Officer, Shrine Board and concerned DIGs and Brigadiers as special invitees. Security coordination groups for the Yatra had also been constituted at lower levels.

The Central team found that Security arrangements had been improved compared to previous year. It recommended that for future years no tents of Langerwallah/ Poniwallah should be permitted to be established outside the secured area of each Yatri Camp and that for this year security cover be provided to existing tents outside the secured area. Further to the visit of the Central team, the State Government provide renewed security measures to continue this year's Yatra and undertook steps to extend security cover to those tents of Langerwallah/Poniwallah established outside the secured zone. The Central Team also recommended that sadhus maybe screened and identified.