

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5475
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2002
MIGRATED PANDITS OF J & K
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of migrated pandits from Kashmir valley still want to go back to their homeland; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to provide them adequate security for the purpose?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Various representative organisations of the Kashmiri Pandits have indicated their willingness from time-to-time for rehabilitation in the Valley. The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir's Sub-Committee comprising of Ministers of J&K has prepared an Action Plan for the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants involving a total amount of Rs. 2589.73 crores to enable Kashmiri migrants, comprising about 1.25 lakh persons, at present residing in Jammu, Delhi and other States/UTs to return to the Valley. The Action Plan is to be implemented in phases in areas where clusters of migrants' houses are available and where security is already provided.

As indicated by the State Government of J&K, to begin with, 166 houses forming 15 clusters have been identified in Srinagar and Badgam Districts which are considered safe for the return of the owners of these houses. The list of these clusters was published in the newspapers and steps were taken to identify the families and seek their willingness to return to their homes. About 50 families who were registered with the State Government's Relief organisation, Jammu were contacted personally to give their consent for return to the Valley on the basis of the package announced by the Government. Interaction meetings with some of these families were also held but none of the families have agreed to return to the Valley so far.