

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3578
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
SUSPENSION OF FRISKING OF PEDESTRIANS
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Ramzan reprieve in J&K: No Frisking, no night curfew` appearing in The Hindustan Times dated November 10, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details with the fact of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the Union Government have also received any such request from the Chief Minister of J&K;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the response of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. For the period of Ramzan, the Security Forces had toned down operations like routine frisking and search of civilian vehicles, to allow relatively unrestricted movement of people. Also curfew timings were relaxed during the holy month of Ramzan to enable the people to attend morning and evening prayers in the mosques. The relaxed timings were coordinated at the local level, keeping in view specific needs and requirements of the general public. However, on specific information, or, on suspicion of terrorist activity, search operations continued to be carried out. Thus, offensive counter terrorist operations were not affected and continued as before.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.