

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3716
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
WITHDRAWAL OF ARMED FORCES ACT
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has requested the Union Government to withdraw Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has had any discussion with the Jammu and Kashmir Government and Army Chiefs in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the committee related to Kashmir issue has also made recommendations in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) & (b): Decisions on issues pertaining to security, including the imposition or removal of AFSPA are taken after joint review and discussions with all stakeholders responsible for maintenance of internal security in the State. No decision has been taken so far to withdraw AFSPA from any area of J&K.
- (c) & (d): Following the visit of All Party Delegation to Jammu and Kashmir in September 2010 and in pursuance of the decision taken by the Government of India, the State Government was requested to review the notification of the areas as 'disturbed areas' under the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir).
- (e) & (f): The Group of Interlocutors in their report has suggested amendment of AFSPA as one of the measures.