

(b) if so, whether he reported that not a single person in Jammu, Srinagar and Ladakh favoured merger with Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) As per available reports the President of Belgian Association for Solidarity with Jammu & Kashmir visited and met people in Jammu, Srinagar and Ladakh in May-June 1997.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. An extract from a report issued by him after his visit is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Extract from visit report of President of Belgian Association for Solidarity with Jammu and Kashmir

2. (a) Meeting with the common man in the streets in Jammu, Rajouri, Srinagar and Leh.

the Kashmiris don't want to be with PAKISTAN and want to return to pre-militant situation; they want to stay with INDIA (our links are there); if this is not possible and if independence could bring them peace they would accept this solution. Not a single person I met in JAMMU, the VALLEY or in LADAKH accepted the option of merging with PAKISTAN, although I was very eager to meet one;

the Kashmiris understand PAKISTAN is playing with them. PAKISTAN should stop interfering and sending money, ammunition, weapons, mercenaries, PAKISTAN wants our land, not the Kashmiris;

due to PAKISTAN'S interference our children were denied a normal education. They lost seven years of their life. They saw nothing but the way from home to school and from school back home. Now there is some relaxation and we hope this trend will continue. The Kashmiris realise they have been betrayed by PAKISTAN : " PAKISTAN has stolen seven years of our lives".

houseboat owners, after seven years of militancy and without any income, can't repair their houseboats and have to sell valuable things in order to survive. They hope tourists will return soon;

many Kashmiris lost their source of income and after eight years their savings are gone. The Kashmiris dependent on the "tourist-industry" are the worst sufferers.

Presidential Form of Government

3910. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO:
DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :
SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :
SHRI MOTI LAL VORA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to bring any constitutional amendment to form a presidential form of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken; and

(d) whether the Government are considering to place the said amendment bill during the current session?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir. However, Government does propose to set up a Commission to review the Constitution of India in the light of the experience of the past fifty years and to make suitable recommendations.

(b) to (d) The matter is presently under consideration.

Hurriyat Conference

3911. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the activities of the All Jammu and Kashmir Hurriyat Conference leaders in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The Union Government are aware of the reports about the meeting of Hurriyat leaders with various Diplomats in Delhi and about the assurance of Officials of Pak High Commission of their continued support to the Hurriyat leaders.

(c) There is no restriction on any person for visiting any Embassy High Commission and meeting the Diplomats. However, Government is keeping a close watch on the activities of Hurriyat leaders.