

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 539**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH DECEMBER, 2017/ AGRAHAYANA 28, 1939 (SAKA)
USE OF PLASTIC BULLETS AGAINST PROTESTERS**

539. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Government would introduce less lethal plastic bullets to be used against protesters in Jammu and Kashmir and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is considering enhanced use of bunkers to protect security forces from stone throwers after the annual shift of the capital from Jammu to Srinagar in the next few days;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has explored options to initiate a dialogue with all the stakeholders in Kashmir including the separatists but no one had come forward in the past and it had hit a dead end; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a) As per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) adopted by Jammu and Kashmir Police including law enforcing agencies for dispersal of unlawful assembly, less lethal weapons should be used as per the established use-of-force policy. The use of force should be guided by objectives of restoring peace, dispersal of violent unlawful assembly with use of such force as is required to minimize the casualty but without compromising safety for Law Enforcement Elements and peace loving citizens. The hierarchy of usage of forces inter-alia includes use of rubber bullet/ plastic bullets. Since, the contents of the SOP and the suggested security measures contain classified information, therefore, further details in the matter cannot be disclosed in the interest of the national security.

(b) & (c) No, madam.

(d) & (e) The Government has appointed Shri Dineshwar Sharma, former Director of Intelligence Bureau, to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Considering the positive initial response from different sections of people in Jammu and Kashmir, it is expected that all stakeholders in the state who believe in peace would support the Government initiative and join the dialogue process.
