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FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
6TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

## Congress of the United States

### House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3006

January 17, 2008

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The Honorable Dr. Manmohan Singh  
Prime Minister of India  
South Block, Raisina Hill  
New Delhi, India-110 011

Dear Prime Minister Singh:

I am writing to you with concern regarding what action has been taken by the federal government of India for the minority Kashmiri Pandits in the Kashmir valley. While I applaud India and Pakistan for maintaining peace across the borders in Kashmir during the current turbulent period in Pakistan, the Kashmiri Pandits continue to suffer in silence, with no end in sight to their plight.

It is no secret that with most Pandits out of Kashmir, the valley today lacks its traditional pluralistic and multi-ethnic identity. More unfortunate is that not much help has been provided to remaining Pandits in Kashmir by the State government or the civil society, and even those that remain, most are starting to leave the valley. The situation is further exacerbated by J&K government's efforts to appropriate lands owned by Pandits when instead Pandits should be encouraged to retain their lands and even expand their land holdings. In fact, the State government could facilitate return of Pandits, who are state subjects, by encouraging them to buy land in the valley through attractive financing.

I ask that you encourage the J&K government to take appropriate action which is not detrimental to Kashmiri Pandits and take creative steps in retaining and growing the population of Pandits in the valley.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,



FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress