

TRIBUNE JUNE 5, '96

## Kashmiri Pandits rap Hurriyat

WASHINGTON, June 4 (PTI) - A group of Kashmiri Pandits and their sympathisers have protested against the claims of the Hurriyat to speak for all Kashmiris.

They were objecting to a Hurriyat delegation visiting Southern California to participate in what the Kashmiri American Council has billed as, "Kashmir awareness night."

The leader of the protesters, Mr Jeevan Zutshi, in a statement ridiculed the Hurriyat's claim by saying "we all know, that the Hurriyat has no following and it is not recognised by the majority in Kashmir."

"The proxy war by Pakistan has been won by India through elections. The most challenging election was held very successfully after seven years of militancy. Despite threats, the polling was peaceful with no major offensive launched by the pro-Pakistani militants and a 40 per cent to 50 per cent turnout proves it all," the statement said.

Mr Zutshi further added: "Kashmiri Pandits were murdered by these so-called freedom fighters in the name of Jihad and, yet, they have the courage to say that these 300,000 people left the valley because Mr Jagmohan (Ex-Governor of Jammu and Kashmir) asked them to do so. These poor Pandits are a living proof of the atrocities committed by these Pakistani-trained terrorists since 1980."