

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:49
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
MIGRATION OF HINDU AND SIKH FAMILIES
MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY;RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Hindu and Sikh families are migrating from Afghanistan and Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which the Government propose to safeguard their interests both inside and outside the country?

Answer

THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)-(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a)-(c) OF THE ANSWER TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 49 T
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(a)-(c) On account of prolonged civil conflict in Afghanistan a large number of Afghan nationals of Indian origin are presently living in India. In keeping with our traditional policy of friendship towards the people of Afghanistan, all Afghan nationals, including those of Indian origin, who came to India with valid travel documents/passports are being allowed to stay unhindered; they are also being granted annual visa extensions.

In addition, we have received information that 275 Afghan Sikhs/Hindu families from Afghanistan are presently in Pakistan intending to travel to India. Government is examining all these requests. A significant number of applications have already been cleared for grant of visa. Government have also waived visa fee for these applicants.

Government is also working actively, along with other countries for restoration of lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan