

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2298
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF REFUGEES
Adityanath Shri Yogi

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the citizenship status of refugees who migrated from Pakistan in 1947 and settled in Jammu is disputed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken thereon;
- (c) whether such persons have been deprived of rights enshrined in the Constitution of India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2298 RAISED BY SHRI YOGI ADITYA NATH TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.7.2009 REGARDING CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF REFUGEES.

(a) to (d): The West Pakistani refugees settled in the State of Jammu & Kashmir since 1947 are citizens of India and are allowed to exercise their right to franchise in the Parliamentary elections, but are not able to vote in the elections to the State Assembly since they are not permanent residents of the State. On this account they also face the following difficulties:—

- (i) They cannot acquire immovable property in the J&K State;
- (ii) They cannot mortgage the land in their possession for raising loans, etc;
- (iii) They are not entitled to get jobs under the State Government;
- (iv) The Scheduled Castes among them cannot avail the reservation quota for the Scheduled Caste in the State; and
- (v) Their children are not entitled for admission to Government professional technical educational institutions in the State.

In order to mitigate their sufferings, the Hon `ble Prime Minister announced a package for J&K on 25.04.2008 which, inter-alia, provides for concessions to the children and grand children of the West Pakistan refugees settled in Jammu and Kashmir in the matter of admission in the technical education institutions approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The facility of bank loans without collateral guarantees has also been provided to these refugees and SBI has extended loans aggregating to Rs.28.80 lacs to 45 beneficiaries. The Ministry of Labour & Employment is also taking necessary action for implementation of concession regarding provision of vocational training under Skill Development Initiatives.