

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4694
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010
SPYING AGAINST INDIA
Kumar Shri Shailendra

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Hindus and Sikhs residing in Pakistan are being compelled to spy against India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the instances of atrocities against these people;
- (d) whether about 200 families who migrated from Pakistan to Jalandhar are still trying for Indian citizenship;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of requests for grant of citizenship received from various quarters; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) & (b) Government is aware of attempts to use members of minority communities from Pakistan for actions prejudicial to national security. Government is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security.
- (c) Government has seen media reports that citizens of Pakistan belonging to minority groups, including Hindus and Sikhs, are subjected to unfair treatment. It is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge its obligations towards its citizens. However, based on reports of persecution of minority groups in Pakistan, Government had taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan stated that it was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community.
- (d) to (f) Some Hindu families of Pakistan had come to Jalandhar on valid travel documents with the intention of settling down in India. As per available information, 193 Hindus from Pakistan are currently residing in Jalandhar and all of them have applied for Indian citizenship. Out of these, 10 persons have already been granted Indian citizenship, and the cases of remaining 183 persons for grant of Indian citizenship are pending with the government.