

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:427

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011

NATIONAL POPULATION REGISTER

Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Patil Shri C. R. ;Pratapsinh Shri Chauhan Prabhatsinh

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has decided to prepare a National Population Register (NPR) of usual residents and issue Nationwide Multi Purpose National Identity Cards (NIC) based on NPR;

(b) if so, whether a process of `social vetting` by Gram Sabhas and Ward Committees is likely to be used for MNIC and that no other document of proof would be required for the process; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the process of issuing MNIC is foolproof and the card is not misused as a proof of Indian Citizenship?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a): Yes, Madam. The Government has decided to create a National Population Register (NPR) in the country by collecting information on specific characteristics of all usual residents. The NPR would also have photographs, 10 finger prints and IRIS of all usual residents who are of age 5 years and above. The resident identity (smart) cards are proposed under the scheme to all the usual residents of the country who are of age 18 years and above.

(b): The process of 'Social Vetting' by Gram Sabhas and Ward committees for usual resident status as declared in the National Population Register (NPR) has been evolved after the consensus of all the State/UT Governments. Further, the list of 'usual residents' would be published in local areas and placed in Gram Sabha/Ward Committee for invitation of objections and claims. The claims and objections would be looked into by revenue officials like Patwari or Talati who act as the Local Registrars, Tehsildars, who are designated as Sub-district Registrars and the Collectors/DMs who are designated as District registrars. However, this does not preclude the raising of claims/objections by law enforcement agencies or by the Registrars suo moto. In sensitive areas, State/UT Governments could take up additional measures for verification and will be free to involve the local Police Stations or the Village Chowkidars in the Process of verification.

(c): The National Population register (NPR) is a Register of Usual Residents. It would contain citizens as well as non-citizens. The objective of creating a NPR is to net all usual residents of the country at a given point of time. The proposed resident identity (smart) cards shall not be a proof of citizenship and would carry a disclaimer that the card does not confer any right to citizenship to the card holder. The citizenship of each individual would be separately determined at the time of preparation of National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC), which would be subset of NPR.