

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:465  
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011  
CITIZENSHIP TO MIGRANTS  
Purkayastha Shri Kabindra

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

- (a) the manner in which requests for grant of Indian citizenship to foreign nationals are considered at present;
- (b) whether the Government of India confer citizenship by making appropriate legislation, to the Hindus of West Pakistan in the State of Gujarat and Rajasthan by amending the relevant laws in 2004;
- (c) whether the Bengali Hindus migrated from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) have received the same treatment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to review the matter; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.465 FOR 06.09.2011

(a): As per rule 11 and 12 of the Citizenship Rules, 2009, an application for the grant of Indian citizenship is to be submitted by the applicant to the Collector/DM/DC within whose jurisdiction the applicant is ordinarily a resident. The Collector/DM/DC, after satisfying himself regarding the eligibility of the applicant to become a citizen of India, forwards the application to the State Government/UT administration within 60 days. Thereafter, the State Government forwards the application, along with its recommendations, to the Ministry of Home Affairs within 30 days. In the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, each application is examined in terms of the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and rules made there under after obtaining security clearance from the security agencies. Each applicant whose case is found to be fully compliant with the prescribed conditions is informed about the acceptance of his/her application through the State Government. The applicant is then required to furnish, through the State Government, a certificate of the renunciation of his/her foreign citizenship issued by the Mission of the concerned country and proof of payment of the requisite fee prescribed for such registration. Thereafter, a certificate of Indian citizenship is issued to the applicant through the State Government. In order to make the aforesaid procedure simpler, faster and more transparent, the Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced a new procedure for online submission of the applications for the grant of Indian citizenship.

(b): Yes, Madam. An amendment of the Citizenship Rules was made in 2004 by which the powers of registering as Indian citizen were delegated to the officers of the Government of Gujarat and Rajasthan for a period of one year. This was further extended upto 28.02.2007 in two spells.

(c) & (d): The above provision was applicable to all Pakistan nationals irrespective of whether they resided in erstwhile West Pakistan or East Pakistan. However, powers to register as citizen of India were delegated in the 2004 Notification only to the concerned officers of the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

(e) to (f): At present, it is felt that there is no need to consider any proposal for delegating such powers to any State Government. The Ministry of Home Affairs has already introduced the new procedure for online submission of the applications for the grant of Indian citizenship in order to make the aforesaid procedure simpler, faster and transparent.