

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4435
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
CITIZENSHIP TO AFGHANISTAN NATIONALS
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons who fled from Afghanistan because of unrest and have taken refuge in the country;
- (b) whether such refugees have submitted applications for granting Indian Citizenship;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government proposed to adopt a humanitarian policy to grant citizenship to all of them; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4435 FOR 30.8.2011

(a) There are 19115 Afghan refugees staying in India as on 31.12.2010.

(b) & (c) The grant of Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Act,1955 and Rules made thereunder is a multi-level And multi-agency activity. As per rule 11 & 12 of the Citizenship Rules,2009, an application for grant of Indian Citizenship is to be submitted by the applicant to the Collector/District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner within whose jurisdiction the applicant is ordinarily a resident. The Collector/DM/DC, after satisfying himself/herself regarding eligibility of the applicant to become a citizen of India, forwards the application to the State Government/UT administration concerned. The State Government/UT administration in turn forwards the application along with its recommendation to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. Thereafter, the application is processed further as per the provisions of the Citizenship Act,1955 and the rules made thereunder. Since initial application is submitted to the Collector/DM/DC concerned, consolidated centralized data of such Afghan citizens who had applied for Indian citizenship is not maintained. All cases received in the Ministry are processed as expeditiously as possible. 1399 Afghan nationals have been granted Indian citizenship during last five years i.e. 2006 to 2010.

(d) & (e) All cases for grant of Indian Citizenship are processed as per the provisions of the Citizenship Act,1955 and Rules made there under.