

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2684
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
CITIZENSHIP TO REFUGEES
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has not awarded citizenship to a large number of Pakistani refugees till date;
- (b) if so, the number of such Pakistani refugees, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any integrated policy for awarding citizenship, providing ration cards and issuing identity cards to these refugees;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Ministry has received any representation from the associations of Pakistani refugees;
- (f) if so, the details along with the nature of demands sought therein;
- (g) the details of the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) : No, Madam. The provision available in the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the rules made for seeking Indian citizenship are applicable to all the foreigners (including those who migrated from neighboring countries). There is no discrimination on the basis of nationality or gender of a person.

(b) to (d): The grant of Indian citizenship is a multi-level and multi-agency activity under the provisions of Citizenship Act, 1955. As per rule 11 and 12 of the Citizenship Rules, 2009, an application for 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 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. Thereafter, the application is processed further as per the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955. Since initial application is submitted to the Collector/DM concerned and a number of agencies are involved in the processing of applications for grant of citizenship, centralized data of such applications is not maintained. All cases received in the Ministry of Home Affairs are processed as expeditiously as possible.

(e) to (h): This Ministry has received several representations from the migrants from Pakistan about difficulty in renewal of their Passports and in obtaining Renunciation Certificate from Pakistan Government. Taking into account the difficulties being faced by such Pakistani Nationals, State Governments/UTs were requested to furnish details of Pakistani nationals living in respective State/UT on Long Term Visa and who entered India before 31.12.2004. Various State Governments/UTs provided such information in respect of 12184 Pakistani Nationals. It has been decided that their citizenship cases would be processed on a case to case basis considering an affidavit filed before the authority prescribed under Rule 38 of the Citizenship Rules, 2009, as Renunciation Certificate. Regarding foreign nationals who claim to be refugees, the FRROs/FROs have been instructed to make appropriate recommendations for grant of LTV, based on assessment on a case to case basis. This applies to all foreign nationals in India, including Pakistan nationals.