

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3723  
ANSWERED ON:04.09.2012  
NEPALI MIGRANTS  
Rai Shri Prem Das

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

- (a) the number of Nepalese and Bangladeshis staying in the country separately;
- (b) whether the citizens of Nepal staying in India can be termed as illegal migrants in view of the open border provisions of the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of the agreements between India and Nepal regarding mutual borders and movement of respective citizens in each other's country?

**Answer**

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

- (a) to (d): Citizens of Nepal entering India by land or air over the Nepal Border does not require visa for entering into India. As such, the citizens of both the countries are free to enter, stay and work in each other's territory. The Nepali population in India cannot be described as illegal migrants. Large numbers of Nepalese are staying in India. The exact number is not known. As on 31.12.2011, 21,274 Bangladeshi nationals were over staying in India.
- (e): India and Nepal have a long open border and enjoy extensive people to people, socio-economic, cultural and religious ties. Under the India-Nepal Treaty of peace and Friendship of 1950, both governments agreed to grant, on a reciprocal basis, to the nationals of one country in the territories of the other the same privileges in the matter of residence, ownership of property, participation in trade and commerce, movement and other privileges of a similar nature.