

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:646  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013  
AFGHAN REFUGEES IN INDIA  
Azad Shri Kirti (Jha)

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

- (a) the number of Afghan refugees living in India;
- (b) whether the government is running special programmes for the welfare of Afghan refugees in India.
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is considering granting ready asylum to people of Indian origin/religious communities in Afghanistan who are facing persecution at the hands of fundamentalists there; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

- (a) As per available information, the number of registered Afghan refugees residing in India was 18,561 as on December 31, 2011.
- (b) to (e) A large number of Afghan nationals including those of Indian origin have been coming to India. In keeping with our traditional policy of friendship towards the people of Afghanistan, applications for longer duration stay of Afghan nationals who enter India on valid travel documents/passports are considered.