

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4792
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
CITIZENSHIP TO SIKH MIGRANTS
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received requests from Sikhs who migrated to India from Afghanistan after 1989 for according citizenship to them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. 956 applications of Afghan nationals were received from various State Governments/UTs for grant of Indian citizenship by registration and naturalization during last three years i.e. 2009-2011. Indian citizenship was granted to 307 Afghan nationals during this period. Community wise database is not maintained in this Ministry. The grant of Indian citizenship is a multi-level and multi-agency activity. 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 and the rules made there under. 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, no caste/ religion based centralized data of such applications is maintained. All cases received in the Ministry of Home Affairs are processed as expeditiously as possible.