

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2458

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

REFUGEES IN INDIA

Agarwal Shri Rajendra;Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Choudhary Shri Harish;Meinya Dr. Thokchom;Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

- (a) the details of the extant regulatory measures for the refugees in the country;
- (b) whether a large number of refugees particularly from Pakistan and Bangladesh are residing in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether a number of Pakistani citizens who come on valid documents but are overstaying, have applied for Indian citizenship;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the measures taken by the Government for rehabilitation/repatriation of foreigners who came illegally or on valid documents?

**Answer**

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

(a): India is not a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereon. There is no national law on Refugees at present. Government has circulated a Standard Operating Procedure for dealing with foreign nationals who claim to be refugees to all State Governments/ Union Territories on 29th December, 2011. This Standing Operating Procedure stipulate that cases, which are prima facie justified on the grounds of a well founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, sex, nationality, ethnic identity, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, can be recommended by the FRROs/ FROs to the Ministry of Home Affairs for grant of Long Term Visa after due enquiry.

(b) & (c) : As per information available, some Pakistani nationals belonging to minority communities in Pakistan, who had come to India on valid travel documents, have not gone back to Pakistan on the grounds of religious persecution in Pakistan. Statistical data of the number of such Pakistani nationals living in India and the data on Bangladeshi nationals who have migrated to India and claim to be refugees is not centrally maintained.

(d) & (e) : As per information available, 8037 Pakistani nationals who had come to India on valid travel documents were found to be overstaying as on 31st December, 2011. Further number of Pakistani nationals who has applied Indian citizenship and number of Pakistani nationals to whom Indian Citizenship Certificate has been issued is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	INDIAN CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION RECEIVED	INDIAN CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE ISSUED
1.	2003	1743	723
2	2004	1309	799
3.	2005	604	844
4.	2006	730	627
5.	2007	570	531
6.	2008	688	424
7	2009	662	310
8.	2010	346	147
9.	2011	282	307
10.	2012	222	334

(f) : Central Government is vested with powers to deport a foreign national under section 3(2)

(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. These powers to identify and deport illegally staying foreign nationals have also been delegated to the State Governments/UT Administrations. Detection and deportation of such illegal immigrants is a continuous process. Details of the number of foreign nationals deported during 2009, 2010 and 2011 are given below:-

Year Number of foreign nationals  
deported during the year

2009 12147

2010 7248

2011 7840

A revised procedure for detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants was communicated to the State Governments/UT Administrations in November, 2009, which was partially modified in February, 2011. The procedure includes sending back then and there, the illegal immigrants who are intercepted at the border while entering India unauthorisedly. As regards Assam, the suspected foreigners are referred to Foreigners Tribunals for determination of nationality. After the Foreigners Tribunal determines the nationality, appropriate action is taken for the deportation of the foreigners who are illegally staying. 36 such Foreigners Tribunals are now functioning in Assam.