

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1599
ANSWERED ON-23.07.2014**

Hindu refugees from Pakistan in the country

1599 Shri Tarun Vijay

- (a) how many Hindus from Pakistan have taken refuge in India to safeguard their lives and religion;
- (b) what is Government's view regarding the increasing incidents of the persecution and forced exile of Hindus in South Asia specially Pakistan and Bangladesh; and
- (c) how many such Hindus have been granted asylum/citizenship in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): Some Pakistani nationals belonging to minority communities in Pakistan including Hindus, who came to India on valid visas, have not gone back to Pakistan on the grounds of religious persecution in Pakistan. Representations have been received requesting for allowing extension of visas of such Pakistani nationals and also for permitting them to apply for Long Term Visa (LTV). Grant of LTV to such Pakistani nationals is a continuous process. As per available information, Government has so far approved grant of LTV in respect of 428 such Pakistani nationals (385 in Delhi, 25 in Rajasthan, 5 in Uttar Pradesh and 13 in Uttarakhand).

(b): The matter was taken up with Governments of Pakistan and Bangladesh through diplomatic channels. Government of Pakistan has stated that it is fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community. Government of Bangladesh has emphasized on several occasions that it would not tolerate any attempt to harm religious minorities in Bangladesh.

(c): As per extant instructions, the Pakistani nationals staying on Long Term Visa under eligible categories with intention of settling permanently and obtaining Indian Citizenship are eligible to acquire Indian Citizenship in accordance with the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship Rules, 2009.
