

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-693
ANSWERED ON-02.03.2016
Facilities to Hindu refugees from Pakistan

693 . Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya

- (a) the number of Hindus, who, after being persecuted in Pakistan came to India as refugees and settled in Rajasthan during the last five years;
- (b) the names of places where these Hindu refugees have settled and the details of facilities provided by Government;
- (c) whether it is proposed to accord Indian citizenship to these refugees, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government has issued any guidelines for the dignified livelihood of these refugees till they get citizenship of India, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): 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. Some Pakistani nationals belonging to minority communities in Pakistan, mainly Hindus and Sikhs, who came to India on valid travel documents on the ground of religious persecution

....2/

-2-

R.S.US.Q.NO.693 FOR 2.3.2016

in Pakistan, have been residing in various parts of the country including Rajasthan. No centralized data regarding such Pakistani nationals is maintained. In Rajasthan, such Pakistani nationals are mainly residing in the Districts of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Jaipur and Barmer. Government of India has been granting Long Term Visa (LTV) to eligible Pakistan nationals belonging to minority communities of that country who are entering India on valid travel documents. As per information available, during the period 2013 to 2016 (till February), 2665 Pakistan nationals residing in Rajasthan have been granted Long Term Visa (LTV).

Grant of Indian citizenship to such Pakistani nationals is governed by the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the rules framed thereunder.

As per extant instructions, the State Governments/ UT Administrations are empowered to grant permission to such Pakistani nationals living in

India on LTV to engage themselves in employment of purely private nature i.e. excluding Government/ semi-Government, local bodies, cooperative jobs

....3/

-3-

R.S.US.Q.NO.693 FOR 2.3.2016

etc. Further, children of such Pakistani nationals are permitted to take admission in schools, colleges, universities, technical/ professional institutions, etc. Other facilities like provision of drinking water, electricity, sanitation, health, etc. to be provided to such Pakistani nationals living in India on Long Term Visa pending grant of Indian citizenship fall under the purview of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations concerned.
