

(a) what has been the impact of the Indo-Thai Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on the Indian Auto industry; and

(b) which Japanese companies are sourcing which vehicles for our domestic market from Thailand?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) Under the India-Thailand Framework Agreement, tariffs have been eliminated on 82 items of which only 6 items pertain to auto components. No adverse impact of this tariff elimination has been noticed on the Indian Auto Industry.

(b) No tariff concession has been granted for the import of vehicles from Thailand. Hence, the question does not arise.

Indian Citizenship for those who fled from Afghanistan

*27. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who fled from Afghanistan because of unrest and have been given Indian Citizenship during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications pending and how long it will take to decide them; and

(c) whether Government would adopt a humanitarian policy to grant citizenship to all of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) 1083 Afghan nationals have been granted Indian citizenship during the last three years *i.e.* 1.1.2007 to 31.12.2009.

(b) and (c) The grant of Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Act, 1955 and Rules made thereunder 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 within whose jurisdiction the applicant is ordinarily a resident. The Collector, after satisfying himself/herself 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 recommendations to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Thereafter, the Application is processed further as per the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the rules made thereunder. Since initial application is submitted to the Collector concerned and a number of agencies are involved in the processing of applications for grant of citizenship, no centralized data base of pending cases is maintained. All cases received in the Ministry of Home Affairs are processed as expeditiously as possible.

Communal Violence Bill

*28. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :