

[20 April, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

been estimated that 1.2 billion U.S. Dollar is required to undertake rehabilitation and reconstruction work in Tsunami affected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to the said report Tamil Nadu was the worst affected with reconstruction needs estimated at 868.2 million U.S. Dollar;

(d) if so, whether Government had decided to sanction the said amount to the Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) As per the preliminary damage and needs assessment report prepared by Asian Development Bank, United Nations and World Bank, the overall rehabilitation and reconstruction needs have been estimated at US\$ 1,213 billion for short and medium term in the Tsunami affected mainland States/UTas follow:—

Andhra Pradesh	US\$	72.6 million
Kerala	US\$	157.7 million
TamH Nadu	US\$	868.3 million
Pondicherry	US\$	114.4 million

(d) and (e) An emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project for Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry involving World Bank assistance of approximately US \$ 465 million has been recently negotiated with the World Bank. In addition, Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project involving Asian Development Bank assistance of approximate US \$ 200 million for the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu has also recently negotiated with Asian Development Bank.

Indian Citizenship to Afgan Nationals migrated to India

3035. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Hindus and Sikhs living in Afghanistan migrated to India because of the oppression by the Taliban regime;

(b) what facilities have been provided by Government of India to them;

(c) since they were not having proper travel documents, whether Government have given them any document for their stay in India; and

(d) since they are living here for the last 15 years, whether Government of India have provided them Indian citizenship and how many applications are pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per information made available by States/UTs 14,551 Afghan nationals were residing in India on 31.12.2004. Their community-wise break-up is not available.

(b) The following facilities have been provided to such Afghan Nationals by the Government

(i) They have been presently granted permission to stay in India till 30.06.05.

(ii) Bonafide businessmen are allowed to travel abroad with multiple entry facility.

(iii) Those, who belong to Hindu/Sikh community, are granted re-entry facility to visit Afghanistan to settle their property related matters.

(iv) They are permitted to travel anywhere in India except Restricted/ Prohibited/Protected areas.

(v) No Exit fee is charged when they leave India permanently.

(c) Registration Certificates have been provided to all such Afghan Nationals, on which permission to stay in India is recorded.

(d) Indian Citizenship is granted as per the provisions for registration or naturalization under the Citizenship Act, 1955 and Citizenship rules, 1956. The applications for citizenship are submitted to the District Collectors who forward them to the concerned State Government/UT Administration along with their reports. The State Government/U.T. Administration sends the applications with their recommendations to the Central Government, which after scrutiny and verifying the eligibility criteria, grants Indian citizenship. Therefore, the applications have to go through different stages in State/Central Government, and no definite number of their pendency can be given.