

Citizenship to Hindus migrated from Pakistan

1141. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether action has been taken by Ministry on the representation to empower District Collectors to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus migrated from Pakistan;
- (b) how many applications have been received by Government from refugee Hindu family migrated from Pakistan within last three years for shelter in India;
- (c) how many such applications are granted and how many applications are under process during last three years; and
- (d) whether the Ministry has taken opinion of Ministry of External Affairs and State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) The grant of Indian citizenship is a multi-level and multi-agency activity. As per rules 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/DM/DC within whose jurisdiction the applicant is ordinarily a resident. The Collector/DM/DC after satisfying himself 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 recommendation to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Thereafter, the application is processed further as per the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the rules made there under. Since initial application is submitted to the Collector/DM concerned and a number of agencies are involved in the processing of applications for grant of citizenship, no case/religion based centralized data of such applications is maintained. All cases received in the Ministry of Home Affairs are processed as expeditiously as possible. 1290 applications of Pakistani nationals were received from various State Governments/UTs for grant of Indian citizenship by registration and naturalization during last three years *i.e.* 2009 - 2011. Indian citizenship was granted to 764 Pakistan nationals during this period.

- (d) The MEA and State Governments concerned are consulted from time to time.