

(c) The identity of whistle blowers is confidential as per Government of India's Resolution dated 21st April, 2004, and the CVC is mandated not only to maintain the secrecy of the complainant's identity but also to provide protection to the complainant against any physical threat, harassment or victimization. Any whistle blower, who requires protection under the provisions of PIDPI Resolution, may approach the Commission for protection. As and when any incident is reported to the Commission for protection of a Whistle Blower, the Commission takes up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Nodal agency to undertake responsibility of providing security cover to the genuine Whistle Blowers. The Ministry of Home Affairs in turn asks individual State Governments to provide security cover if needed. During 2011, in three cases the Commission requested the Ministry of Home Affairs for taking suitable action for protection of the complainants.

Migration of Hindus from Pakistan

†*263. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Pakistani Hindus have migrated to India recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that hundreds of Pakistani Hindus have been sitting on the borders to come to India;

(c) if so, the details of the Hindus coming from Pakistan till 10 August, 2012;

(d) whether Government has raised this issue with Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Pakistan's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) (a) to (e) Government has seen reports that some Pakistani nationals belonging to minority communities 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).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government has seen media reports that on August 10, 2012, over 200 Hindus who had valid travel documents and visas were stopped at Wagah border point in Pakistan and were allowed to cross into India after the Pakistani authorities were able to ascertain that these Pakistanis were travelling to India for meeting relatives or for pilgrimage and would return to Pakistan. It was also reported that these Pakistani nationals themselves stated that they would return to Pakistan.

Government has from time to time come across reports on the problems faced by members of the minority communities in Pakistan. Incidents of persecution and intimidation of the minority communities have also been reported. It is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge its constitutional obligations towards its citizens, including those from the minority community. While, the Simla Agreement of 1972 between India and Pakistan specifically provides for non-interference in each other's internal affairs, nevertheless, based on reports of persecution of minority groups in Pakistan, Government had taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan stated that it was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community.

Estimation of growth rate

†*264. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country for the year 2012-13 has been estimated to be five per cent by the assessors;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and whether it is also a fact that the above growth rate is less than the target fixed in this regard;

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(d) whether the fall in this growth rate would also have a bearing on industrial and service sectors;

(e) if so, the assessment of the decline in these sectors and whether it is a fact that country's growth largely depends on agriculture; and

(f) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.