

(d) whether Government proposes to give resident status to refugees and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Some Pakistani nationals who had come to India have refused to return to Pakistan on the grounds of religious persecution in Pakistan and have applied for Indian citizenship. Since the initial application for citizenship is submitted to the Collector/DM concerned and a number of agencies are involved in the processing of the applications for grant of citizenship, no caste/religion based centralized data and State/District-wise data of Pakistani nationals who have applied for Indian citizenship is maintained.

(c) Facilities, if any, 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 Territories concerned. As per extant instructions, Pakistan nationals staying in India on Long Term Visa under the eligible categories with the intention of settling permanently and obtaining Indian Citizenship are permitted to engage in employment in private sector *i.e.* excluding Government/Semi Government, local bodies, cooperative jobs etc. Further, children of such Pakistani nationals are permitted to take admission in schools, colleges, universities, technical/professional institutions etc. subject to usual conditions prescribed for foreigners in this regard.

(d) Presently there is no proposal under consideration to give permanent resident status to the refugees. As per the extant instructions, the Pakistani nationals staying on Long Term Visa under eligible categories with intention of settling permanently and obtaining Indian Citizenship are already eligible to acquire Indian Citizenship in accordance with the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship Rules, 2009.

Identifying migrant Pakistanis

4558. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that hundreds of Pakistanis comprising Hindus who have entered in various parts of the country have mixed with the local population;

(b) if so, whether such Pakistanis are not willing to return back to their country;

(c) if so, whether Government has since identified them from the security and intelligence aspects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government on their stay in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) A number of Pakistani nationals belonging to minority communities in Pakistan, mainly Hindus and Sikhs, have not gone back to Pakistan on the grounds of religious persecution in Pakistan and they have been seeking extension of their visas and permission to apply for Long Term Visa to stay in India. This matter has been examined by the Government. Government has issued instructions on 7th March, 2012 to all State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to consider such cases of Pakistani nationals in the light of the guideline issued by the Government on 29th December, 2011 for dealing with cases of foreign nationals in India, who claim to be refugees. These guidelines stipulate that in case it is found that prima facie the claim is justified on the grounds of a well founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, sex, nationality, ethnic identity, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, the State Governments/UT Administrations may recommend the cases to the Ministry of Home Affairs for grant of Long Term Visa after due enquiry.

Maharashtra Housing (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2012

4559. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Housing (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2012 is long pending to get assent of the Hon'ble President of India;

(b) the reasons for the delay in getting the assent of the Hon'ble President in this respect as the new provisions incorporated in this Bill by the Maharashtra State Government would safeguard the interest of the consumers and give relief to them; and

(c) by when the assent to this Bill is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Maharashtra Housing (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2012, as passed by the State Legislature and reserved by the Governor of Maharashtra under Article 200 read with Article 254(2) of the Constitution of India for seeking assent of the President of India under Article 201 of the Constitution of India was received in the Ministry of Home