

- (ii) Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Themes. 13 circuits have been identified under the Scheme namely North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

Tamils living as refugees or repatriates from Sri Lanka in India

*75. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of Stateless Tamils living either as refugees or repatriates from Sri Lanka in various refugee camps in India for the past forty years and being denied their human rights; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stand of Government of India and Sri Lanka in giving citizenship to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) to (b) As reported by the Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of Odisha, as on 01.01.2016, there are 64,144 refugees from Sri Lanka staying in 107 ordinary camps in Tamil Nadu and 22 refugees staying in 1 camp in Odisha. These camps are managed by the respective district administration. In addition, 36,861 refugees are staying outside the camps after getting themselves registered in the nearest police station.

Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who are residing in camps, are provided with accommodation, electricity, drinking water, toilet facilities etc. free of cost. In addition, other facilities such as monthly cash assistance, free clothing materials, utensils, subsidized ration etc. are provided. Besides this, the State Government is also extending various welfare schemes such as Girl Child Protection Scheme, Social Security Scheme, Maternity Financial Assistance Scheme, Marriage Assistance Scheme etc. to the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in the camps.

The Citizenship applications are processed as per the eligibility criteria and other provisions laid down in Citizenship Act, 1955 and rules made there under. The provisions of Act are applicable to all the foreigners and there is no discrimination on the basis of nationality or gender of a person.