GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 380

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH JULY, 2022/ ASHADHA 29, 1944 (SAKA)

REFUGEE POLICY

380. SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to draft a refugee policy in the near future, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;
- (b) the reasons for the delay in formalising a stand on refugees despite India contributing extensively to peacekeeping missions and welcoming refugees into the country at various stages;
- (c) whether Government has done any estimation of the financial burden placed on India by the 20,000 plus refugees already settled in the country;
- (d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government proposes to implement a concrete refugee policy; and
- (f) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) to (f) India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereon. All foreign nationals (including refuge seekers) are governed by the provisions contained in The Foreigners Act, 1946, The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, The Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and The Citizenship Act, 1955. The

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existing laws for dealing with foreigners are sufficient to deal with refugees.

Since foreign nationals claiming to be refugees try to enter into the country without valid travel documents in clandestine and surreptitious manner, accurate data regarding such foreign nationals staying in the country is not centrally available. As such there is no estimation of the financial burden imposed by such foreign nationals.
