

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 24.02.2010

ANSWERED ON

INDIAN CITIZENSHIP FOR THOSE WHO FLED FROM AFGHANISTAN

27

SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of COAL, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of persons who fled from Afghanistan because of unrest and have been given Indian Citizenship during the last three years;
- (b) the number of applications pending and how long it will take to decide them; and
- (c) whether Government would adopt a humanitarian policy to grant citizenship to all of them?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (c):A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 27 ANSWERED ON 24.2.2010 REGARDING INDIAN CITIZENSHIP FOR THOSE WHO FLED FROM AFGHANISTAN.

(a):1083 Afghan nationals have been granted Indian citizenship during the last three years i.e. 1.1.2007 to 31.12.2009.

(b) & (c):The grant of Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Act, 1955 and Rules made thereunder is a multi-level and multi-agency activity. As per rule 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 within whose jurisdiction the applicant is ordinarily a resident. The Collector, after satisfying himself/herself 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, Government of India. 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 concerned and a number of agencies are involved in the processing of applications for grant of citizenship, no centralized data base of pending cases is maintained. All cases received in the Ministry of Home Affairs are processed as expeditiously as possible.