

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*76**  
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2025

**REHABILITATION AND WELFARE OF DISPLACED SIKH FAMILIES**

\*76. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any specific policies for the rehabilitation and welfare of displaced Sikh families, particularly those who have migrated due to historical conflicts or persecution;
- (b) details of any special measures taken to support Sikhs who have returned from Afghanistan, Pakistan or other countries in recent years;
- (c) whether Government provides financial or housing assistance to displaced Sikh families and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) number of Sikh refugees or asylum seekers who have been granted citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, details thereof State/UT-wise; and
- (e) initiatives taken to preserve Sikh heritage, culture and religious sites in India and abroad?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

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**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Starred question number \*76 for 08/12/2025 asked by Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu, regarding “Rehabilitation and welfare of displaced Sikh families”.**

(a) & (c): The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements various schemes for socio-economic upliftment of Sikh community and other notified minority communities.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry with focused interventions in areas of education, health, skill, women empowerment etc. in minority concentrated pockets. Under the scheme, over 11 lakh infrastructure assets have been sanctioned, of which about 9 lakh units have been completed, with a total sanctioned project cost of around Rs. 26,237 crore and over Rs. 16,300 crore released to States/UTs and CGOs since inception.

Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) scheme focuses on Skill development and Training of youth, development of Women Leadership and Entrepreneurship and education support for school dropouts. During current year, 42 projects covering 1.40 lakh beneficiaries have been approved, with a total outlay of more than ₹700 crore. Under the Scheme, a project has been allocated to Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) to train 29,600 candidates in modern skilling based job roles and support 2,000 candidates through bridge education to re-enter formal schooling.

National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) under the Ministry of Minority Affairs implements schemes for socio-economic development of Sikh community and other notified minority communities, by providing concessional loan for self-employment income generation ventures across the country. Since inception in 1994, the NMDFC has disbursed an amount of Rs. 10,225.83 crores covering over 27.35 lacs families under its various schemes.

(b): As per information received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Long Term Visa (LTV) is granted to persons belonging to minority communities in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh viz Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhist, Jains, Parsis and Christians, who have come to India on valid travel documents i.e., valid passport and valid visa and seeking permanent settlement in India with a view to acquire Indian Citizenship. The Government has extended various facilities to such persons living in India on LTV. These include grant of LTV for a period of 5 years at a time, allowing children of such LTV holders to take admission in schools, colleges, universities, technical/professional institutions etc, without any specific permission from the State Government/UT Administration, permitting them to engage in employment in private sector, purchase of dwelling unit & accommodation for carrying out self-employment, Re-entry in India (Return Visa) after going to their native country/third country, allowing free movement within the State/UT of stay, reduction of penalty on non-extension of LTV on time, opening of bank accounts, issuance of Driving License, PAN Card and Aadhar number, etc. 1073 LTVs have been granted to such Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan nationals belonging to Sikh religion during the last five years.

(d): As per information received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, total 337 Sikh community have been granted citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, State/UT-wise details are as under:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Sikhs	Delhi	296
2	Sikhs	Haryana	14
3	Sikhs	Madhya Pradesh	6
4	Sikhs	Punjab	13
5	Sikhs	Uttarakhand	8
<b>Total</b>			<b>337</b>

(e): The Ministry of Minority Affairs, under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) scheme has approved the establishment of Centre of Excellence of Gurumukhi at the University of Delhi to revive and promote the Gurumukhi language as a subject of higher education while preserving the rich heritage and culture of minority communities. The Centre will offer Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Ph.D., and research programs in Gurumukhi Studies, fostering collaboration between the University and the Ministry to enhance educational opportunities for minority students.

The Ministry also organized Hunar Haats which has now been rechristened as “Lok Samvardhan Parvs” whereby opportunity to showcase and market handicrafts and indigenous products is provided to artisans from Sikh community and other notified minority communities to gain national exposure and rejuvenate local value chains. So far, 46 such events have been organized since November 2016 at various locations throughout the country whereby more than 8 lakh artisans, craftsmen and people associated with them have been benefited.

National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Minority Affairs and has been inter-alia entrusted with the responsibility to look after the implementation of safeguards for protection of interests of Sikh community and other notified minority communities. The NCM from time-to-time issues advisories to all State / UT Governments to preserve heritage, culture & religious faith of Sikh community and other notified minority communities.

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