

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2938**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH MARCH, 2018/ PHALGUNA 22, 1939 (SAKA)

LTV TO MINORITIES FROM AFGHANISTAN

2938. SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently cleared the proposal for granting Long Term Visa (LTV) to minorities from Afghanistan especially sikhs seeking refuge in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such relaxation will be given to minorities from Pakistan, who fled the country owing to religious persecution;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received requests from Hindus and Muslims who wanted to return to India; and

(f) if so, the number of such persons and the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

(a) to (d): Central Government has extended the facility of Long Term Visa (LTV) to the members of minority communities in Afghanistan, namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians seeking permanent settlement in India with a view to acquire Indian citizenship. If found eligible, such persons may be granted Long Term Visa (LTV) for a period of

5 years at a time, which is further extendable. Similar facility of Long Term Visa (LTV) is already available to such members of minority communities of Pakistan.

(e) & (f): No such specific request has been received by the Central Government. However, existing regulations also permit grant of LTV to the following categories of Afghanistan and Pakistan nationals:-

(i) Afghanistan nationals married to Indian nationals in India and staying in India or Pakistani women married to Indian nationals and staying in India.

(ii) Indian origin women holding Afghanistan or Pakistan nationality married to Afghanistan or Pakistan nationals respectively and returning to India due to widowhood/ divorce and having no male members to support them in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

(iii) Cases involving extreme compassion.
