

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-4048
ANSWERED ON- 24/03/2023

RENUNCIATION OF INDIAN CITIZENSHIP

4048. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether more than eleven lakh people renounced their Indian citizenship between 1st January 2015 to 31st October 2022 and less than 800 people from countries other than Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan took Indian citizenship during the same period and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to find the reasons for such high number of renunciation and low acceptance of Indian citizenship, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government tried to determine the financial as well as intellectual drainage and loss to the country because of the high denouncements of citizenship and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to c) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indians who renounced their Indian citizenship was 1,31,489 (in 2015); 1,41,603 (in 2016); 1,33,049 (in 2017); 1,34,561 (in 2018); 1,44,017 (in 2019); 85,256 (in 2020); 1,63,370 (in 2021) and 1,83,741 (in 2022 till 31.10.2022). For reference purpose, numbers were 1,22,819 (in 2011); 1,20,923 (in 2012); 1,31,405 (in 2013); 1,29,328 (in 2014).

As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of foreign nationals except those from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who took Indian citizenship was 93 (in 2015), 153 (in 2016), 175 (in 2017), 129 (in 2018), 113 (in 2019), 27 (in 2020), 42 (in 2021) and 53 (in 2022 till 31.10.2022).

The reasons for renouncing/taking citizenship are personal.

The Government recognizes the potential of the global workplace in an era of a knowledge economy. It has also brought about a transformational change in its engagement with Indian diaspora. A successful, prosperous, and influential diaspora is an asset for India. India stands to gain a lot from tapping its diaspora networks and productive utilization of the soft power that comes from having such a flourishing diaspora. The Government's efforts are also aimed at harnessing the diaspora potential to its fullest including through sharing of knowledge and expertise.
