

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 850**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 07<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023/ MAGHA 18, 1944 (SAKA)**

**CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATES**

**850. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:  
SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether the Government has empowered the district collectors of two more districts in Gujarat – Mehsana, and Anand – to grant citizenship certificates to the members of Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Christian, Buddhist and Jain communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh;**

**(b) if so, the criteria used by the Government to grant citizenship to people specifically from the religions mentioned above; and**

**(c) the reasons for choosing specifically the districts as mentioned above in Gujarat to grant citizenship certificates?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (c): Yes Sir. The Central Government, in exercise of powers conferred by Section 16 of The Citizenship Act, 1955, has delegated its power to grant citizenship by registration under Section 5 and by naturalisation under Section 6 of The Citizenship Act, 1955 to the Collectors of 31 Districts including Mehsana and Anand, Gujarat for speedy disposal of citizenship applications of person belonging to minority**

**communities of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh namely, Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian. This delegation of power is aimed at speedy disposal of the citizenship applications of such foreigners as decision can now be taken at the District level itself after examining each case. These districts have been chosen keeping in view the need of applicants.**

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