

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *34**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4TH FEBRUARY, 2020/ MAGHA 15, 1941 (SAKA)

CITIZENSHIP FOR REFUGEES

***34. SHRI K. NAVASKANI:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Muslim Refugees would be granted Indian Citizenship now onwards;**
- (b) the details of the number of citizenship granted to Muslims and persons from non-Muslim communities during the last seventy years, religion-wise;**
- (c) the reasons for amending Citizenship Act along with the reasons for determining December 31, 2014 as the cut off date under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019;**
- (d) the manner in which non-citizen Muslims are proposed to be treated;**
- (e) the details of documents required as proof for citizenship; and**
- (f) the number of Bangladeshi immigrants deported so far?**

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 34 FOR ANSWER ON 04.02.2020

(a). The present legal process of acquiring Indian citizenship by any legal migrant of any category through Naturalization (Section 6 of the Citizenship Act) or through Registration (Section 5 of the Act) remains un-amended. Many migrants belonging to majority religion in the neighboring countries have also been granted Indian citizenship whenever they have applied to the competent authority and have been found eligible. All legal migrants into India, irrespective of religions shall continue to get citizenship as per the provisions of the Citizenship Act,1955 if they fulfil the eligibility conditions.

(b). Records of persons granted Citizenship by registration or by naturalisation are maintained as per the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and rules made thereunder. These records are not maintained religion-wise. Prior to 1986, the district collectors had been exercising the power to grant citizenship under sections 5(1)(a) and 5(1)(d). Records of such persons are not available centrally. However, year-wise data of foreigners who have been granted Indian Citizenship during the last 10 years is enclosed as Annexure.

(c). The Citizenship (Amendment) Act,2019 aims to facilitate grant of citizenship to migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who have taken shelter in India due to persecution on grounds of religion or fear of such persecution in their countries and have entered India on or before 31/12/2014 and who have been exempted from the

penal provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Rules/orders made thereunder by amending the Passport (Entry into India) Rules 1950 and the Foreigners Order, 1948 vide notifications dated 07.09.2015 and 18.07.2016. These notifications mention a cutoff date of 31.12.2014. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 facilitates grant of citizenship to the same category of foreigners.

(d) All non-citizens are equally covered under the provisions of Foreigners Act, 1946, The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the rules / orders made thereunder. Besides as mentioned in reply to part (a), the eligible legal migrants can acquire Citizenships either through naturalization or registration.

(e) Acquisition of Indian Citizenship is governed by the criteria provided under the Citizenship Act, 1955 and Rules made thereunder. Citizenship of India can be acquired by birth or descent or registration or naturalisation or incorporation of territory.

(f). As reported by Bureau of Immigration, details of Bangladeshi Immigrants deported is as under: -

<u>Sr. no.</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of persons deported</u>
1.	2016	308
2.	2017	51
3.	2018	445

ANNEXURE
LS.S.Q.NO. 34 FOR 04.02.2020

Year wise details of foreigners granted Indian Citizenship

Year	No. of foreigners granted Citizenship
2010	232
2011	435
2012	553
2013	563
2014	617
2015	606 + 14864*
2016	1106
2017	817
2018	628
2019	987
Total	21408

* 2015 – After the signing of indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 2015, 53 enclaves of Bangladesh were included in Indian Territory. Under Section 7 of The Citizenship Act, 1955, 14864 Bangladeshi nationals were granted Indian Citizenship.