

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3687**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020/PHALGUNA 27, 1941 (SAKA)**

**VISAS TO MINORITIES**

**3687. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:  
DR.T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:**

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

**(a) whether the minorities from nearby countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were given Long Term Visas by the Government under Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property in India) Regulation, 2018;**

**(b) if so, the details of conditionalities under which it was given to those minorities and the number of such visas issued;**

**(c) whether the said conditionalities would be applicable as per Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA); and**

**(d) if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b): Grant of Long Term Visa (LTV) to any foreigner is not governed by the Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property in India) Regulation, 2018. LTV is granted to the following categories of persons of Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan coming 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:-**

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**(i) Members of minority communities in Bangladesh/ Afghanistan/ Pakistan, namely Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians.**

**(ii) Bangladesh/ Pakistan women married to Indian nationals and staying in India; or Afghanistan nationals married to Indian nationals in India and staying in India.**

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

**(iv) Cases involving extreme compassion.**

**LTV has been granted to 26,786 such foreigners from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2019 after their arrival in India. There is no specific provision for grant of such LTV to minorities from Sri Lanka.**

**(c) & (d): The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 facilitates grant of citizenship to migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan who have entered India on or before 31.12.2014 and who have been exempted by the Central Government by or under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 or from the application of provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946 or any rule / order made there-under.**