

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.348
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2016**

VICTIMIZATION OF INDIANS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

†*348. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether families of Indian origin residing in Afghanistan and other countries have been victimised by the local army/civilians during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, country-wise;**
- (b) the number of houses of Indians looted, the number of persons/families asked to leave the country and the number of Indians out of those who returned to India during the said period;**
- (c) the steps taken for the safety of the life and property of Indians in these countries including Afghanistan; and**
- (d) the number of persons of Indian origin who returned to the country in the wake of disruption of peace process in Afghanistan and other countries and the amount of assistance and facilities provided to them?**

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)**

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 348 REGARDING “VICTIMIZATION OF INDIANS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES” FOR ANSWER ON 10.08.2016

(a) to (d) No instance of victimization of families of Indian origin residing in Afghanistan and other countries by local army / civilian population has come to notice during last three years. However, there have been abductions and attacks on Indian nationals by terrorist groups in Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen and Iraq.

The Government have extended to individuals belonging to religious minorities, such as Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, etc. and facing religious persecution in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the facility of Long Term Visa (LTV) which provides for their prolonged stay in India. The number of such individuals during 2012-2014 is summarized below:

Number of Registered Refugees/Foreigners on LTV in India (figures as on December 31st of each year)				
S.No.	Country	2012	2013	2014
1.	Afghanistan	18,730	10,340	2,736
2.	Bangladesh	1,45,561	1,55,761	1,51,101
3.	Pakistan	47	0	10,179

Recently, the Government have also decided to extend various other facilities to such individuals holding LTVs. These include permission, without RBI approval, to open bank accounts and purchase of dwelling unit for self occupation or for carrying out self employment, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. Such individuals may also be issued PAN cards, Driving Licenses and AADHAR cards, and may also take up self-employment and engage in business considered safe from security point of view.

The Government of India attaches utmost priority to regularly monitoring the evolving security situation in various countries where it is so required. Whenever there have been serious threats to the safety and security of Indian nationals in war affected countries, the Government has made extensive efforts to enable the evacuation of Indians from such countries. Our diplomatic Missions issue advisories whenever required and regularly engage the security agencies in the countries concerned to assess emerging threats to the lives and properties of Indian nationals. Where required, arrangements are also made, under the aegis of the Indian diplomatic Missions, to provide shelter and other necessary arrangements to victimized Indians abroad.
