GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 879

ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014

MIGRATION OF HINDUS FROM PAKISTAN

VIRENDRA KUMAR

(a) whether Hindu families are continuing to migrate from Pakistan;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any action in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRSbe pleased to state:-

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. RETD. V.K. SINGH)

(a) to (e) Government has from time to time come across reports of members of minority communities in Pakistan, including the Hindu minority, entering India on valid visas and not going back to Pakistan on the grounds of religious persecution. Representations have also been received from some of them for allowing extension of visas and also for permitting them to apply for Long Term Visa (LTV).

It is the primary responsibility of foreign Governments to discharge their obligations towards all their citizens, including those that belong to their minority communities. Though the 'Simla Agreement' with Pakistan specifically provides for non-interference in each others' internal affairs, nevertheless, based on reports of persecution of minority groups in Pakistan, Government has taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has stated that it was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community.