GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 5518

ANSWERED ON:28.03.2018

Atrocities on Minorities in Pakistan

ALOK SANJAR

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the alleged atrocities committed against Hindus, Sikhs and other minorities in Pakistan and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of families who came to India and sought the status of refugees during the last three years and the current year alongwith the number of families which have returned to Pakistan;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard alongwith the details of the assistance granted to such families;

(d) whether the Government has taken up the said issue with the Government of Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Pakistani Government thereto?

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRSbe pleased to state:-

ANSWER

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

(a) Government has seen reports appearing in the media on the problems faced by members of the minority communities in Pakistan including that of intimidation, abduction, persecution, forced conversions and forced marriages of girls.

(b) & (c)As per available information, more than 12000 Pakistan nationals including those belonging to minority communities have been granted Long Term Visas (LTVs) during the last three years.

Government also extends certain facilities to persons belonging to persecuted minority communities from Pakistan namely Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, staying in India on LTV. These include purchase of a small dwelling unit for self occupation and suitable accommodation for carrying out self-employment, issuance of PAN card and Aadhar card.

(d) & (e)It is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge its constitutional obligations towards its citizens, including those from the minority community. Government has from time to time, taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and has conveyed the expectation that the latter will look after the safety, security, well-being and will protect freedom of its minority communities.