

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2623
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Facility for Pakistani Refugees
Singh Dr. Bhola

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of fact that the West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) are residing in the State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K); and
- (b) if so, the number of WPRs residing in the State along with the nature of rights enjoyed by them in comparison to other residents of the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHI CHAUDHARY)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) As reported by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, during the partition of 1947, a total of 5764 families consisting of 47,215 persons migrated from West Pakistan and got settled in Jammu division. These persons are known as West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs). These refugees are not treated by the State Government as Permanent Residents of Jammu and Kashmir and accordingly, they do not enjoy some rights as available to the Permanent Residents of the State like right to contest and vote in State Assembly and Local Body

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elections, right to purchase property in the State, etc. The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has stated that WPRs have migrated from such areas which were not part of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir as such, they could not be treated as permanent residents of the State as per the State Constitution.
