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Title: Need to look into the problems of migrants/refugees coming from Pakistan to India.

SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI (JODHPUR): Since partition there has been a mass exodus of migrants/refugees from Pakistan to India. They are coming with valid passports and visas and have applied for Indian citizenship and residential permission to stay in India. But, unfortunately most of the requests are lying pending. Some of the major problems faced by them are :-

When they apply for Indian Citizenship or extension of visa their requests are forwarded to the Government of India, Home Ministry. If the visa extension is not granted on time they are forcibly deported or heavy penalty is imposed. The District Magistrate of the State should be authorised to grant citizenship to such persons whose papers are all clear. Visa extension/additional visa power should be given to local FRRO's .

Even after submitting valid documents for permanent settlement, they should be permitted to move freely to other cities of the State for livelihood. The Government of India has banned all Pakistani Nationals from going to the West side of NH-15, thus, preventing them from visiting their relatives who are living in that area. They cannot attend any functions, marriages, engagements, funerals or any other important work.

95% of the immigrants are SCs and Tribals. The Citizenship fees charged by the Government of India till 2005 was very reasonable. Suddenly it was increased, for sections 5(1 a) and 5(1d) from no fee to 5,000/- and Rs. 100/- to Rs. 3000/- respectively and under section 5(1 c) from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 10,000/- and some persons are being charged Rs. 20,000/-. This increase is unaffordable for the poor people. These may be reverted back to the original fee structure. Pakistani Girls marrying Indian boys should be given immediate Citizenship on request without any fee. In the interest of the refugees/migrants a High Powered Committee be constituted consisting of the Home Ministry External Affairs Ministry and Rehabilitation Department to look into the difficulties faced by them.