

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 380**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020/MAGHA 16, 1941 (SAKA)**

**DUAL CITIZENSHIP AGREEMENTS**

**380. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of countries with whom India has dual citizenship agreements;**
- (b) how many foreign citizens have availed this facility so far, the country-wise details thereof;**
- (c) how many Tamils were to be covered for granting Indian citizenship and how many have been given so far by way of bilateral agreement with Sri Lanka;**
- (d) how many Sri Lankan Tamils have applied for Indian citizenship; and**
- (e) whether Government would consider entering into bilateral agreement with Sri Lankan Government for offering dual citizenship to facilitate their requests?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

**(a) & (b): Dual citizenship is not permitted as per the provisions of Article 9 of Constitution of India read with Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.**

**(c): In the Sirimavo – Shastri Agreement of 1964 it was stipulated that India would grant citizenship to 5,25,000 persons while Sri Lanka would accept 3,00,000 Indian Origin Tamils (IOTs) in the ratio of 7:4 and the status of remaining 1,50,000 persons was to be considered later. Then in the Sirimavo-Indra Gandhi Agreement of 1974, the remaining IOTs were to be accepted as citizens of India and Sri Lanka in the ratio of 1:1 along with natural increase in their numbers. IOTs of Sri Lanka were registered as Citizens of India under the**

**provisions of section 5(1)(b) of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and passports were issued to them. As per information supplied by Public (Rehabilitation) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, a total of 4,61,639 IOTs were repatriated to India from Sri Lanka under the aforesaid agreements up to the year 2006. In 1988 the Sri Lankan Parliament passed the Grant of Citizenship to Stateless Persons Act which granted Sri Lankan citizenship to all Indian Tamils who had not applied for Indian Citizenship under the previous agreement. Subsequently on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2003, the Sri Lankan Parliament passed the Grant of Citizenship to persons of Indian Origin Act No. 35 of 2003 which granted Sri Lankan citizenship to all Indian Tamils who had been residing in Sri Lanka since October 1964 and their descendants.**

**d) No such records are maintained.**

**e) No such proposal is under consideration.**

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