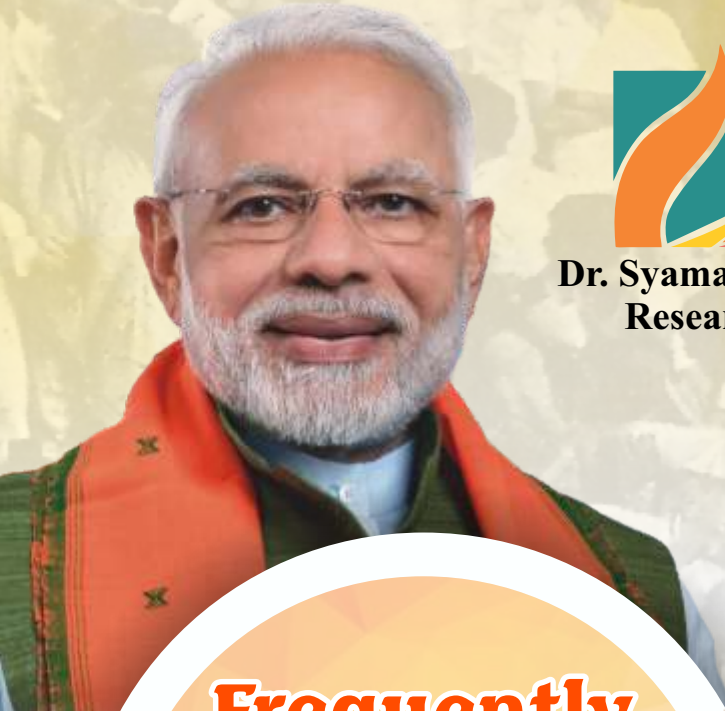




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**Frequently  
Asked  
Questions on  
CAB**



### **1. What is the Citizenship Amendment Bill (or the CAB)?**

A. The Citizenship Amendment Bill is aimed to ensure the rights of Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Jains, Sikhs and Parsis from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan in India. They are to be counted not at par or equal with infiltrators from these nations. Refugees who have migrated before December 31, 2014, are empowered to receive Indian citizenship.

### **2. Who will benefit from Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB)?**

A. This law will benefit Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Sikhs, Jains and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

### **3. How will Bengali Hindus benefit from this act?**

A. Hindus from Bangladesh who have been persecuted and forced to move to this country will get the benefit of this bill. In fact, the Bengali Hindus will be the largest beneficiary of all the categories targeted through this act, because after the partition, a large number of Bengali Hindus have been persecuted in Bangladesh and forced to come to India. All of them will be considered legitimate citizens if this law is passed.

### **4. In order to take advantage of citizenship under this law, should one first declare ourselves as refugees and wait five years to get citizenship?**

A. Nobody needs to declare himself/herself as a refugee. Everyone who has already been in India for more than five years and who has come before December 31, 2014 and in India for the last one year continuously, will benefit from the Act by default.

Misinformation in this regard is being propagated from some selfish interests but their words have no credibility.

### **5. Should those who migrated from Bangladesh to India before 1947, also apply for citizenship?**

A. No, they are already recognized as citizens of India.

### **6. How can one be sure about the particular date of December 31, 2014?**

A. The central government has already amended two other citizenship laws, namely, the Passport Act of 1920 (entry to India) and Foreigners act 1946 whereby Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis who came from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan before December 31, 2014 have been given concession. For those who have entered India before that date, the Government of India has announced a special concession of not being considered an infiltrator in any case.

**7. It is said that those who have come to this country after being persecuted or fearing persecution can avail the benefits of the CAB. But how can one prove persecution?**

A. No evidence will be sought. There will only be a declaration column in the form where persecution will be mentioned. The Government of India will not seek evidence because the crime in this case is under the jurisdiction of the Government of Bangladesh. Therefore, the Bangladesh Government is responsible for their trial and justice. Since the Indian government is not in the business of providing any justice, they will not seek any evidence.

Additionally, a field in the form will ask for the details of persecution. The reason for this field is that if this process is subsequently challenged in the court by some narrow sectarian interest, then this mentioning of details of persecution will serve as a bulwark to support the Government's stand.

**8. How can anyone prove proof of living for five years?**

A. Certificate from a municipality or a panchayat, Aadhaar card, a post office account, any electric or phone bill, a bank passbook or office record will all be considered as proof. If none of these documents can be furnished, then two acquaintances who are already legal citizens of India, can vouch for the applicants five-year living by filling out a five-year residence form along with the application.

**9. Will Bengali Hindus who migrated to Assam not get the benefit of this law even though the Citizenship Amendment Bill is passed?**

A. They too will get citizenship because this time the original citizenship law is being amended. Earlier amendments were to Passports Act 1920 (Entry to India) and Foreigners Act, 1946.

**10. What are some news media saying this law does not apply to the North Eastern states of India?**

A. In the North eastern states (Arunachal, Mizoram, Nagaland etc.), some regions are under the sixth schedule and an inner-line permit is required for those regions. Therefore, these regions are excluded from the Act. Except for this special case, the areas in which the Bengalis reside in large numbers in the North East are all covered by this Act.

**11. So, Hindus living in the regions of the Northeast specified by the sixth schedule (see question 10) cannot take advantage of this law?**

A. They too can benefit from the law. They will have to apply from other areas where the law is in force. Their voter card must be from a different place which they are applying from.

**12. There are many people in Assam who are not named in the NRC and some are currently being prosecuted for illegal intrusion. Can they apply for citizenship under this law?**

A. All these lawsuits against them will be dismissed when this law comes into effect. They will also get citizenship through this Act and will be considered as citizens of India.

**13. Is there any area of West Bengal that is outside the scope of this Act?**

A. No area of West Bengal is outside the scope of this Act. The law extends to all of West Bengal.

**14. Well, now if someone gets any welfare benefit like money under Kanyashree scheme or PMJDY or rice at a low price in ration, will those benefits be withdrawn if they apply for citizenship as it deems; they are non-citizens at present?**

A. The central government has made it amply clear under the Act that all the government grants or benefits currently available to the applicant will remain valid. It cannot be stopped in any way, as he has applied for citizenship. That is, the money for the daughter under Kanyashree or any other grant will continue.

**15. Well, if a government employee applies for citizenship now, will they lose their job on being a non-citizen at the time of joining?**

A. No. Only citizenship will be formally awarded under this law. None of the rights and emoluments of the applicant will be taken away.

**16. Why should not all citizens of the neighbouring countries be given citizenship under this law?**

A. India is struggling with the population bomb. Since Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan were part of Indian civilization. These nations have Islam as their State religion, and they have in the process created the minorities who are the second class citizens. The survival of these second class citizens of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan is in crisis. So, in the interest of humanity and civilizational connection, India cannot turn a blind eye to their apathy.

In the Islamic countries, a Muslim cannot be persecuted for religious reasons, so they are unlikely to be refugees for religious reasons. Hence, all citizens are not to be treated equally. This affirmative action extends only to those who have been at the receiving end of unequal treatment.

*[Authored by Diptasya Jash, Translated by Debtanu Chakraborty; Courtesy: Team- Bangodesh.com]*