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The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Highlights of the Bill

- The Bill amends the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for citizenship.
- Under the Act, one of the requirements for citizenship by naturalisation is that the applicant must have resided in India during the last 12 months, and for 11 of the previous 14 years. The Bill relaxes this 11 year requirement to six years for persons belonging to the same six religions and three countries.
- The Bill provides that the registration of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders may be cancelled if they violate any law.

Key Issues and Analysis









- The Bill makes illegal migrants eligible for citizenship on the basis of religion. This may violate Article 14 of the Constitution which guarantees right to equality.
- The Bill allows cancellation of OCI registration for violation of any law. This is a wide ground that may cover a range of violations, including minor offences (eg. parking in a no parking zone).

[Read the complete analysis here](#)

Stage	Date
Introduction	July 19, 2016
Com. Ref.	Aug 12, 2016
Com. Rep.	By First day of the last week of the Monsoon Session, 2018

Lok Sabha Introduced
Rajya Sabha

Relevant Links

-  [PRS Legislative Brief](#) (514 KB)
-  [_](#) (702 KB)
-  [PRS Bill Summary](#) (411 KB)
-  [_](#) (140 KB)
-  [Bill Text](#) (101 KB)
-  [_](#) (345 KB)
-  [Foreigners Act and Passport Act Notification July 2016](#) (172 KB)
-  [Foreigners Act and Passport Act Notification September 2015](#) (202 KB)

Related news articles

[Consensus bid against citizenship bill, Telegraph, Oct 26, 2016](#)

[Simply put: Understanding issues of illegal migration in new Citizenship Bill, Indian Express, Oct 25, 2016](#)

[Citizenship Bill: House panel is missing the wood for the trees, Hindustan Times, Oct 17, 2016](#)

[A communal bill: Don't grant citizenship on religious lines, it goes against the idea of India, Times of India, Oct 17, 2016](#)

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