

period of 10 years when I was Speaker there were many occasions when such matters based on newspaper reports were raised. We should do one thing on such occasions, which we have been doing earlier also, that we should ascertain the veracity of the press report first.... (*Interruptions*)

I am talking about drawing a conclusion about it; but you, please lend your ear. (*Interruptions*)

You should listen, I am not speaking anything that is against you, I am talking in the interest of all.... (*Interruptions*)

I am going to say something, if you listen, you can draw conclusion as to what I mean. I want to say, whenever reports like this appear in the press we start speaking without ascertaining anything. Sir, I told you yesterday also that when I was occupying the chair which you now hold, I used to say that let me first ascertain the veracity of the press report. In this way our time will not go waste... (*Interruptions*) Then there can be a debate, an exchange of views and a discussion and everything on that. But it will be in the interest of all of us and in the interest of the country, only if we do it in a purposeful manner. We should, therefore, not act like this. We should not behave like this as we behaved yesterday.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, you please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, I allowed you. Mr. Acharia, I allowed you also.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you please appreciate that this is a Question Hour. You have given 20 days' notice for it; 10 days' notice to the Government and 20 days' notice to the Secretariat. Lakhs and lakhs of rupees have been spent on it. The required

information has been collected. You are all interested in getting that information. And this House has not to discuss only one issue. You can discuss Five Year Plan; Population problem, environmental problem, employment problem or you can discuss all the ministries.

Having discussed one topic for six hours or ten hours, it should be more than sufficient and we should go to other topic. Everyday, supposing, you are going to take up only one issue, then it will neither help you nor the country.

There are other points. Let us discuss those points. Yesterday, for more than two-and-a-half-hours, nobody obstructed you. Today, they are also agitated and they are bound to be agitated. They want to speak, I am not allowing them to speak. Within Fifteen minutes, this should be over and you should go to the question. You should carry on and after the Question Hour, you can have your say.

11.16 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Immigrants from Bangladesh

*716. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh living in Delhi at present;

(b) the reasons for not deporting them to Bangladesh so far;

(c) the number of such immigrants in Delhi who have been sent back to Bangladesh during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken for early repatriation of the remaining immigrants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (d). Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Since illegal immigrants from Bangladesh enter India surreptitiously and easily mix with the local population, it has not been found possible to ascertain their exact number. It is, however, estimated that over one lakh such illegal Bangladeshi immigrants are living in Delhi.

The task of identifying illegal Bangladeshi immigrants is complex and massive because of ethnic similarities and lack of co-operation and public awareness on the part of local population.

The seriousness of the problem of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh has been taken up with the Bangladesh Government. Government have constantly reviewed the position and taken steps, such as strengthening of measures at the border for checking illegal infiltration, strengthening of the Scheme of Prevention of Infiltration in the effected States, tightening of visa procedures and regulations for issue of visas to Bangladeshi nationals, creating a computerised data base for effective detection, and deportation of illegal immigrants. Instructions have also been issued to State Governments and UT Administrations to carry out special drives for detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.

According to the information available, the Delhi Administration have deported 291

illegal Bangladesh immigrants, as per details below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. Deported</i>
1989	—
1990	1
1991	118
1992 (upto 12.4.1992)	172

[*Translation*]

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection, I would like to state that the information given by the hon. Minister is not correct. Delhi has 5 lakh Bangladeshi not one lakh. Further, I would like to know as to why these immigrants return to Delhi when they are once repatriated to Bangladesh. Does the Government not have any means to prevent them from entering Delhi again? Does the Government have figures of Bangladeshis deported to Bangladesh? The number given here is negligible. Out of those, how many returned to Delhi?

[*English*]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Sir, I have already answered in my statement that over a lakh of Bangladeshi migrants are reported to be in Delhi. But regarding those people who are to be repatriated back, I am not able to give you a specific reply at the moment. But we have been able to send back a few of them but considering the enormous number of people who come from across the border, we have not been successful enough to send them back. But at the moment, we are following all the diplomatic efforts with Bangladesh Government to see that maximum number of these people are taken back to Bangladesh. So, it is continuing. At the same time, regarding border areas, we have taken up sufficiently strong measures now, after the experience of the past few years for

preventing further people coming to India. We have checked the flow. So, now the border check posts are organised. The Border security Force are available. And various other measures are being taken up there. I do not mind is giving more information if the Member wants so.

[*Translation*]

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that crimes are normal in Delhi. According to my information, Bangladeshis are involved in anti-national activities in Delhi. Does the Government have information that about the number of Bangladeshis involved in these crimes during the last one year? Besides this, has the Government set any dead line for deciding once for all and to see that no Bangladeshi remains in India? Do you have any such deadline? Will they keep on coming and going?

[*English*]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Sir, regarding crimes committed in Delhi by the Bangladeshi illegal migrants, as everyone knows, it is very difficult to detect a Bangladeshi migrant from a Bengali who is already here. The ethnic composition is almost the same. Therefore, it is very difficult distinguish between them, unless the people cooperate and tell us who is a real Bangladeshi who has migrated. Actually, twice, the Delhi Police has taken up this endeavour to find out who are the illegal migrants who have come to Delhi. But unfortunately, they were not able to pursue much because of the difficulty in detecting them exactly. But we have not given up the hope. Now, we have an Action Plan formulated with the co-operation of the Delhi Police of the Deputy Commissioner's Office.

The Action Plan is formulated to conduct a special census to see how many people are in Delhi. There are already 12 pockets identified as pockets of Bangladeshis

illegal immigrants. So, an effort has to be made. About three-four months' time is expected to be spent to detect these people in 12 pockets where Bangladeshis are there.

Besides that, now a days, some of them are spreading out from the 12 pockets to other areas also. For that we will have to take some more time to detect them. I think another two months may be required for detecting that through this method. We will make honest efforts. It is not a simple question.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Have you decided about any deadline?

SHRI M.M. JACOB: It is not possible to make a deadline? That is why I said that it is a complex problem. But we have to make an effort to detect them, first of all. In Delhi, we have three-four months to detect them through this method; and another two months to detect them in other areas where they have spread.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: You know that after the partition of this country during 1947, a large number of migrants had come to this part of the country and they had spread all over the country particularly in Delhi also. The hon. Minister has specifically stated the figure of over one lakh illegal Bangladeshi migrants. I would like to know how he has differentiated between the migrants who have come after the partition of the country and staying in various parts in Delhi and the persons who have illegally entered this country after 1970, because after 1970 only it is called illegal migrants, if I understand it correctly? Before that who had come here, they have not been given the Indian citizenship yet? Will he consider this point also before identifying those migrants families who have come due to partition of this country? Will you consider giving them the Indian citizenship?

SHRI M.M. JACOB: It is precisely. I was trying to answer earlier that it is a very complex problem to identify between a

Bangladeshi and a Bengali. They may be some method by which we can do it—accent of the language. My Bengali friends may very well know that there may be a slight difference in the accent of a Bangladeshi and a Bengali. We have even tried that to use the services of a Bengali or a real Bangladeshi to find out who is a migrant and who is not a migrant. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't reply to the interruptions.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is in your interest to hear it.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Mr. Manoranjan Bhakta has put a question: are you giving citizenship to those people who came before partition.

SHRIMANORANJAN BHAKTA: Before 1970.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not reply to interruptions; reply to the main supplementary question.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Thank you, Sir. We have got guidelines for issuing citizenship to people in India. Those guidelines are followed in this case also. There is no variation at all in this case.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this problem creates social, economic and security problems as well. The Government is showing its helplessness regarding this. If any foreigner remains for more than 15 days then you take necessary action to repatriate him. They are living every where in the country. I would like to ask whether the Government will take action to remove the names of Bangladeshis from the voter list, who are present in India. (*Interruptions*) whether Indian citizens of

Delhi (*Interruptions*) if they are not Indians nationals then how did their names appear in the voter list. Does the Government have any plan to issue multi-purpose identify cards for Indian citizens?

[*English*]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: The hon. Member Shri Khurana has asked an important question, whether it is possible to eliminate or remove the people whose names are entered in the voters' list. But what happened here is that all the people in Delhi have been given ration cards, according to my information. It was done soon after the previous Government came and when the then Prime Minister took over, he himself went round one or two shuggies and said that ration cards must be issued to everybody. So, ration cards were issued. When for enumeration in Voters' list comes the people come with ration cards and say that they have ration cards, and that they are bona fide citizens of the country. There is nothing to show whether they are citizens or non-citizens. This is also a difficult question.

I agree with you that a serious effort has to be made now to find out how best it can be done. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Not this way. He is informing and you hear him.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: All the political parties do want it and all the people are also interested to see that the voters' list is infanted with the people living in Delhi. It is a complex question. I would even suggest that the Government is prepared to hold a meeting of the party leaders. let us sit together and discuss how best we can find out a solution for this. Otherwise, it is not possible. It requires the cooperation of all the people in our country. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not expect you to reply to that question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDER JIT: The problem of emigration of Bangladeshis into India is truly scandalous. Even more scandalous is the fact that lakhs of people are coming and in the last three years we have been only able to deport one hundred and seventy-two persons. I would like to know from the Government, if they have a serious action plan, if not, would they be prepared to consider the question of issuing identity cards to every single Indian national because this problem is growing in a big way and we are now getting a flood of migrants from Bangladesh. Would the Government be prepared to consider issuing identity cards to Indian nationals, irrespective of the cost involved?

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked the question; you do not have to repeat it.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Considering the cost of issuing identity cards to all the nationals, the Government think that it may not be easier for us to do it. But at the same time, we found that infiltrators were coming in large numbers, for example in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, etc. We have already sanctioned money for the issuing of identity cards and part of the identity cards have already been issued. The idea seems to be very well understood but the problems will be many when we decide on the identity cards.

Regarding the volume of the people coming from Bangladesh, the Border Security Force and other agencies were able to detect and send back a large number of people. I have the figures also.

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking if you have an action plan.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: We have an action plan and I mentioned in the beginning also, that there are two phases of the action plan. We are even having a computerised pro-

gramme to find out the real people and all that.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM: In West Bengal and in the State of Bihar there is a community known as Shershab wadi. They speak a language which is similar to Bengali and Hindi mixed together. They live in Katihar, Purnea, Kishanganj, Mushirabad, Malda and other districts.

When I was contesting the election in the constituency of Katihar I came across several villages where these people have acquired lands and they are living there from countries, from time immemorial. Unfortunately, recently, an agitation has been started against them to oust them from their home land and deprive them of the lands treating them as Bangladeshis. A regular agitation has been started in Katihar, in Purnea and in Kishanganj.

They are mostly poor people, labourers, cultivators and illiterates. Most of them are illiterates. I want to know from the Home Minister as to whether he has come across any complaints from these Districts of Bihar to treat Shershab Wadi as backward... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good question and very properly put. Please allow him to put his question.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM: Sir, they were demanding that they should be treated as backward classes. During the election time, all the Parties had given an assurance to them that they will be treated as backward classes... (*interruptions*) I want to know from the Home Minister the steps the Government is taking to protect them and not to allow them to be disturbed from their Rehbra House.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: This question was meant only for Delhi.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing you to reply to this.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Sir, it is a fact. We have also information that there are Bangladeshi nationals, who have migrated to some parts in Bihar. So far, no complaint has come from any quarter to our knowledge on this question.

Social Upliftment of SCs/ STs

+

*717. SHRI ROSHAN LAL:
SHRI KESHRI LAL:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated by the Union Government for the social upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during 1992-93;

(b) the progress made so far in their social upliftment; and

(c) the steps taken for making these schemes more effective and meaningful?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI K. KAMALA KUMARI): (a) to (c). Statements I and II are laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Central & Centrally Sponsored Schemes for SCs and STs formulated for implementation in 1992-93 by the Government of India in the Ministry of Welfare.

(a) Continuing Schemes

1. Post-Matric Scholarships (Centrally Sponsored)
2. Government Scholarships to the

students for studies abroad (Non-Plan-Central)

3. Pre-matric Scholarship (Centrally Sponsored)
4. Book Banks (Centrally Sponsored)
5. Girls Hostels (Centrally Sponsored)
6. Boys Hostels (Centrally Sponsored)
7. Coaching and Allied Schemes (Pre Examination Training) (Centrally Sponsored)
8. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations (Central)
9. Strengthening of Machinery for enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (Central Sponsored)
10. Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (Central)
11. (a) Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (Centrally Sponsored)
- (b) National SC and ST Finance and Development Corporation (Central)
12. Research and Training (Central)
13. Grant in aid to Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (Central)
14. Price Support to TRIFED (Central)
15. Establishment of Ashram School in Tribal Sub Plan Area (Centrally Sponsored)