

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:447
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009
ILLEGAL BANGLADESHI IMMIGRATION
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large scale illegal Bangladeshi immigration has changed the entire demography of the Siliguri and Doars region; and
- (b) if so, the corrective action taken by the Government to check such illegal immigration?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): India's long and porous border with Bangladesh, geographical proximity, family ties and ethnic similarity, coupled with better economic opportunities in India have resulted in illegal migration from Bangladesh. As no recent survey has been done, it may not be possible to indicate the exact number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants who may have crossed over surreptitiously.

Central Government is vested with the powers to deport a foreign national under section 3 (2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. These powers to identify and deport illegally staying foreign nationals have also been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The procedure for the detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants has also been set out and circulated to State Governments/UT Administrations who are implementing the same on a continuous basis.

In Order to check illegal immigration from Bangladesh, the Government of India has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes the following measures:-

- i) Construction of border fencing, roads and flood lighting.
- ii) Round the clock surveillance of the border by the Border Security Force.
- iii) Setting up of 1185 Border Out Posts (BOPs) along Indo-Bangladesh Border to reduce the inter BOP distance for effective border domination, of which 802 BOPs have already been established. Setting up of remaining 383 BOPs have been sanctioned.
- iv) Induction of hi-tech surveillance equipment including night vision devices.