

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1506
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
NATIONAL CITIZENS REGISTER
Singh Shri Rajnath

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of updating the National Citizens Register in the North Eastern States;
- (b) whether the Government has any plans to update the National Citizens Register in the North Eastern States like Assam in the near future;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the manner in which the Government is planning to identify and verify the increasing numbers of illegal immigrants in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (c): At present, there is no proposal for updating of National Citizens Register in the North Eastern States. However, in the tripartite meeting held on 5.5.2005 to review the implementation of Assam Accord, the Government of Assam agreed to updation of National Register of Citizens (NRC), 1951. Pursuant to the above, the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules 2003 was amended based on modalities received from the Government of Assam for updation of National Register of Citizens (NRC) 1951 in Assam based on relevant records. An amount of Rs. 5.02 crore was released to the Government of Assam during the period 2005-06 to 2008-09 for this purpose. Pilot Projects for updating of NRC in two block (one each in Kamrup and Barpeta districts) were initiated. However, due to law and order problems in Barpeta district, the work of updating the NRC was stopped. The State Government constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee to look into the issues, and to give recommendations on the guidelines/procedure to be followed for updation work. The State Cabinet Sub-Committee has submitted its report to the State Government.

(d): The powers of identification and deportation of illegally staying foreign nationals including Bangladeshi nationals have been delegated to the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations under Section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. Thirty Six (36) Foreigners Tribunals including additional, four (4) Foreigners Tribunals sanctioned in August, 2009 are set up for detection of foreigners/illegal migrants in the State of Assam.

In order to control the illegal infiltration, Government has taken steps for strengthening of the Border Security force and equipping them with modern equipments, reduction of gaps between the border posts and intensified patrolling along Indo-Bangladesh border. The border fence along the Bangladesh border is being strengthened and a scheme for flood lighting along the border is being implemented. The issue of illegal migrants from Bangladesh is regularly taken up at various forums and steps have been taken for coordinated patrolling, identification of vulnerable gaps, strengthening of riverine patrolling etc. Government of Bangladesh has also been urged to take effective steps to check the illegal movement of their nationals into India, especially through vulnerable and riverine areas. The strengthening of security and erection of fencing along Indo- Bangladesh border has helped in curbing illegal migration from Bangladesh to India effectively.