

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4006
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2012
ILLEGAL MIGRANTS IN ASSAM
Bwiswmuthiary Shri Sansuma Khunggur

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the influx of illegal Bangladeshi migrants in large numbers in the State of Assam, particularly the tribal areas has created demographic and ethnic problems in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said migrants have also grabbed a large chunk of tribal land in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): There are reports of illegal infiltration/immigration of Bangladeshi nationals who manage to infiltrate into the country in spite of checks and control at the international border, particularly through few patches where fencing is not feasible due to difficult terrain and riverine areas. As this activity takes place clandestinely, no specific details are available about the magnitude of this illegal migrants staying in Assam. The people of Assam and other North Eastern States perceive their ethnic/cultural identity being threatened by illegal infiltrators. 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 ensure speedier disposal of cases pending in foreigners Tribunals, in April, 2012, foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964 has been amended which envisages that the cases shall be disposed of by the Tribunals within 60 days from the reference received from the competent authority.

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 fora 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.

(c) to (e): There have been instances encroachment and transfer of lands in tribal belts and blocks in Assam by ineligible persons. The state Government is taking all necessary steps for removing encroachments in tribal belts and blocks.