

**Title:** Need for early repatriation of Reang refugees camping in Tripura to Mizoram-Laid.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (TRIPURA WEST) : Since October, 1977, Government of Tripura has been facing a problem of influx of Reang Tribals in Tripura from Mizoram. These refugees presently numbering 31,811 (5,885 families) have come gradually over a period of 2 years and are accommodated in six camps in Kanchanpur Sub Division of North Tripura District. The Government of Tripura has taken up the issue of their immediate return with the Government of Mizoram as well as the Government of India. In November, 1997 after persuasion by the Home Ministers of Tripura and Mizoram, 3000 Reangs returned to Mizoram but came back subsequently. There have been a number of meetings regarding their repatriation. Chief Ministers of Tripura and Mizoram met in May, 1998. Union Home Minister held a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2000. It was decided therein that 16000 refugees shall be repatriated by October, 2000. While the rest shall be accepted back by Mizoram after verification within December, 2001. However, nothing happened. The latest decision is that the Joint Secretary (N.E.), Home Ministry shall visit Mizoram in April, 2001 and after consultation draw up a phased repatriation programmed. Earlier, in October, 1999, National Human Rights Commission after a spot assessment, had emphasised that it is the constitutional obligation of the Government of Mizoram to take back the reang refugees and ensure their peaceful resettlement. Even after more than three years, nothing concrete for return of the refugees has yet been done.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter.