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Title: Regarding repatriation of Reang refugees of Mizoram.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA WEST): Thank you, Madam. With your kind permission, I am raising an important issue with regard to repatriation of Reang refugees.

The influx of Reang refugees of Mizoram has been a great and grave concern for Tripura. This has been creating social, administrative, and law and order problems. The influx of Reang Tribals started from October 1997 due to serious ethnic problems in Mizoram. At present, the State has more than 40,000 persons from 6,138 Reang families of which 800 families have arrived after 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The State Government has time and again taken up the issue with the Government of India as well as the Government of Mizoram and series of meetings -- at different levels -- have taken place, but without any result. Instead, new families have come over from Mizoram from November 2009.

The National Human Rights Commission, after a spot visit, had emphasized that it was the Constitutional obligation of the Government of Mizoram to take back Reang refugees and ensure their peaceful settlement. Out of the 2,746 new Reang migrants, who had arrived in Tripura after 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009, the Government of Mizoram has agreed to take back 259 families only and have actually taken back 184 families comprising 884 migrants only so far. As a humanitarian measure, the State Government has extended relief benefits to these families and sought for Rs. 1.87 crore for reimbursement up to March 2010 for these new families, but the State is yet to receive the amount.

I would, therefore, strongly demand that the Government of India must take urgent pro-active steps to ensure repatriation of Reang refugees and their peaceful settlement in a time-bound manner.