

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2407**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY, 2018/ PAUSHA 12, 1939 (SAKA)**

**DECLARATION OF D VOTERS**

**2407. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the procedure and norms to declare a person as Doubtful/ Dubious Voter (D voter) in Assam;**
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that thousands of people in Assam are being declared as “D Voters” and being taken into custody by the authorities without any notice for minor spelling mistakes in their names or fathers’ names;**
- (c) if so, whether the Government would issue necessary guidelines to the State Government to stop their plight and protect genuine citizens from undue harassment;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the number of people who are officially ‘D’ voter in Assam and the number of them, arrested during the last two years?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

**(a): As per the White Paper on Foreigners Issue, released by Home and Political Department, Government of Assam, during intensive revision of electoral roll in Assam in 1997, the letter ‘D’ (for doubtful/disputed) was marked against the names of those electors who could not prove their Indian citizenship status at the time of verification. Based on the verification report, the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) took a decision on whether a reference to the concerned tribunal was necessary to ascertain the Indian citizenship status of such electors. Once, EROs confirmed in the affirmative,**

**such cases were forwarded to the competent authority (SP of the concerned district) for reference to the concerned Tribunals. Based on the judgments/orders of the tribunals, the letter 'D' was either removed if Indian Citizenship status was confirmed or name of the electors deleted from the electoral rolls if citizenship status as Indian could not be established in Court.**

**(b) to (e): Issuing notice to the 'D' voters is a legal process and there is no question of harassing people. 'D' voters are not detained. Only persons declared by Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) as foreigners are kept in the detention centers. State Government updates the details about 'D' voters. As per the monthly report of disposal of cases in FTs of Assam, 19612 'D' voters were declared Foreigners till October, 2017.**

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