

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, November 20, 1985/
Kartika 29, 1907 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR
(Gurdaspur).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Amendments to the Citizenship Act and
Foreigners Act

*41. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to under-
take any amendments to the Citizenship
Act and Foreigners Act to endow certain
foreign nationals staying in Assam for the
last several years with some special rights ;
and

(b) if not, whether any such under-
taking was given to the leaders of the
AASU when they met the Home Minister
recently ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME
AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) :

(a) and (b) : In pursuance to the
Assam Accord, a Bill for the Amendment
to the Citizenship Act, 1955 has been
introduced in the Lok Sabha on
18.11.1985.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Sir,
the mountain has given birth to a mouse

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after much prolonged parleys and the
accord and this Bill has failed in this
respect to allay the fears and apprehensions
or misapprehensions of a large section of
the population of the state of Assam. I
don't want to go into details. What is
more, it has failed to allay the fears of
large section of people who feel that they
are citizens and the position would be
changed because the Union Government
has abandoned them to a section who will
be hounding them out. In the context of
this I want to ask the Home Minister
through you, Mr. Speaker, whether Govern-
ment thinks that no further amendment to
the Constitution or the Foreigners' Act is
called for ? It that the final and considered
view of the Government ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : At least for the
time being we don't think that any amend-
ment is necessary.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : This
calls for the definition of the word 'time
being'.

AN HON. MEMBER : Time-bound.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : I
want to know whether it is not a fact that
Mr A. K. Sen, the Law Minister specifi-
cally suggested in a letter to you on
11-10-85 that Section 2(a) of the Foreign-
ners' Act be amended to include the
definition 'foreigners' means a person who
is not a citizen of India but does not
include any person who is included in
clauses 5.4. and 5.6 of the Assam Accord
and with an Explanatation or a Proviso to
Section 2(a). If so, why is it that the
Home Ministry has turned down this
opinion of the Law Minister ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : What the hon.
Member is saying is not borne out by the
facts. What is the advise which the con-
cerne Ministry gives us is a matter which I
cannot possibly disclose in the House.