

freely to profess, practise and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health. Since 'Public Order' is listed as Item No. I of List-II State List of 7th Schedule of the Constitution, any Law and Order matters relating to conversions are to be taken care of by the respective State Governments.

Deportation of Bangladeshis from North-East

850. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 300,000 people cross over from Bangladesh into North-Eastern States, annually;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that migrations from Bangladesh to Tripura have been so large that the local tribal population, who earlier constituted a majority, have been virtually swamped; and
- (c) if so, what action Government have taken during the last two years to deport foreigners from the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) The Government of Tripura has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court in the Writ Petition No. 125/98 filed by All India Lawyers Forum for Civil Liberties. In this Affidavit, the Government of Tripura have stated that migration from Bangladesh has virtually engulfed the indigenous tribal population of the State, who were previously enjoying the majority.

(c) The identification/interception/apprehension of unauthorised migrants and their deportation to Bangladesh is on-going process. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been directed to detect and deport foreigners staying illegally. During last two years 1,811 foreigners have been deported from the North Eastern States by the Border Security Force.