

[8 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

The State Government have initiated the following confidence building measures;

- (a) Completion of inventerisation of immovable property left behind by migrants.
- (b) Initiation of Social Interaction Programme.
- (c) Expediting follow up action for eviction from migrant houses/lands from illegal/unauthorised occupation.

The cash relief to the Migrants has been revised from Rs. 450/-per head per month to Rs. 600/- per month per head subject to a maximum of Rs. 2400/- p.m. with effect from 1st April, 1999.

In Jammu, where a number of Migrants are staying in camps, they have been provided with one Room Tenements. There are 12 Dispensaries in various camps with 28 qualified doctors and 111 Para Medical staff to cater to the Medical needs of the migrants. Camp schools and camp colleges have been established to cater to the educational need of the migrant students. There are 3 Degree Colleges, 8 Higher Secondary Schools and two High Schools. Other amenities such as community halls, sanitation, water, electricity, etc. have also been provided in the Camps.

Pope's Veiled Call for Conversion

849. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Telegraph on 8th November, 1999 captioned, Government cross with Pope's call;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the concern expressed in a section of the press that the Pope's call was a veiled call for conversion; if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) According to Article 25 (1) of Constitution of India, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right

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.