

**Status of implementation of One Hundred Thirtieth and One Hundred
Thirty-Second Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Home Affairs**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, I make a Statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Thirtieth and One Hundred Thirty-second Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9799/08 and 9799A/08]

**Status of implementation of Twenty-Seventh and Twenty-Ninth Reports of the Department-
related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Textiles**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): Sir, I make a Statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-ninth Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Textiles. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 10047/08 and 210048/08]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that a fax letter has been received from Shri Tiruchi Siva stating that he is unable to attend the House as he has sustained an injury in the right foot which has led to fracture. He has, therefore, requested for Leave of Absence from 10th December, 2008, till the end of the 214th Session of Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent from all meetings of the House during the current Session?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

**Illegal Immigration/Infiltration in Assam, West Bengal and
other States of the Country**

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I rise, today, to refer to a situation which has been in existence for a very long time and, particularly, a movement and an investigation launched by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and a Report that it has submitted. I strongly commend that Report, because it highlights, very effectively, a continuing wrong that is taking place in the North-East of India.

Just a few minutes back there was a question referring to it to which the hon. Minister of Home replied effectively. Sir, this is a question of illegal immigration, a question that has bedevilled the region for decades now. If one were to go into the genesis it would really go back

to the partition of Bengal in 1904-05; and go again to when Assam became a part of the Bengal Presidency. So, it is a very old issue. And the very first reference to it that I find is during the British days when Field Marshal Wavell, visiting Assam, commented how the then first Premier of Assam, Sadullah, was encouraging a certain type of 'infiltration' to take place. Thereafter, Sir, I am saddened to have to refer to the Radcliff Mission. During the Radcliff Award, repeated mention was made about undefined areas which, subsequently, got left behind as enclaves and holdings that juxtaposed into the other land. Some are now in Bangladesh which was earlier the East Pakistan and the others are in Bengal or Assam. So, there was a letter written then by late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to say that 'these could be left as they are. We will sort them out subsequently between successor Governments. Let us quickly get over the award and the partition.' That, again, caused a great deal of trouble. We have situations now that you have all these enclaves, I would not want to go into their number. That is why the problem arises, which the hon. Minister replied effectively, saying about citizens going to, purchase their daily needs here or there. Successive Governments have attempted to address this issue, which is an issue of a great national importance. It directly relates to national security. It has generated, decade-after-decade, so much wrong in the region. It has created political uncertainty. It has created, and is continuing to create, a totally artificial set of non-citizens who call themselves citizens, who are interfering in the affairs of the country, and which has persuaded the highest court of the land to go the extent of calling it 'a demographic invasion'. Now, I could go on on this vein, Sir, but that does not serve much purpose. I strongly urge upon the Government and the Parliament to please address this issue as an issue of the national importance. It is the national identity that gets eroded otherwise. It is the demographic alteration of the entire region, not just Assam or the North-East, there are parts of Bihar and Bengal that are, now, vitally affected. In fact the present Chief Minister of Bengal has recognised its importance. But I will not refer to an issue in Assam that has generated a great deal of controversy. Let me leave a possible solution to this rather intractable-looking problem. If the will of the Parliament prevails, as it must prevail, it is a doable option. The starting point for this is a National Register of Citizens. This is a demand that emerged from Assam long back. We have to accept it as a legitimate demand and concede it. For citizenship, Sir, let the Census of 1971 be the cut-off census. Thereafter, those that came after 1971 let them have a certain category, and those that came before can be granted a right of residence and a work permit, but not of vote. They can live here but they ought not to have the right to vote. Thereafter, there ought to be a comprehensive identity card that covers all these aspects. The post-1971 illegal emigrants can be granted a work permit. There is no other way that you would be able to effectively address this issue. I have served in that region. I had personally participated in the movement in the 1980s and also subsequently, I had also served in the Armed Forces. We are constantly harping on the question of the border fencing. We have spent hundreds of crores, trying to fence a border that itself is not settled. The changing rivers will come and takeaway what you want to settle as a border. You will see a border that runs along the ground, there is a culvert, people cross under the culvert. The 'chars' are there, they

are open lands. You simply cannot fence them effectively. Let the Government know this reality. The Government of the State knows this reality already. The answer in a conviction in the State Government that this is a national issue. Secondly, if we do not address it now, we will cause much further damage to the stability, the political stability; to the work force that is available in the region; to the land; to ecology; to forests; to climate; to the denudation that takes place because of annual uncontrolled flooding, and the damage that takes place, the hoax that takes place in the name of voting. It is a national security issue. I urge upon the Government to treat it only as a national security issue, not as something of political ping-pong between those that are in authority on the Treasury Benches and those of us who are in the Opposition. I am ready to work with the Government, in this regard, for the earliest possible solution. Thank you, Sir.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no, I am not going to allow this. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, he has used the phrase 'the State Government'. May I kindly, through you, inform the House, and I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will be aware, that the Supreme Court has specifically recognized the role of the West Bengal Government and its conviction in dealing with this issue. ...(Interruptions)... Let us be clear about it. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Naresh Gujral. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): सर, गृह मंत्री जी जा रहे हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: यह जीरो ऑवर मेशन है।...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए न, जीरो ऑवर में इंटरवेंशन नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कुमार दीपक दास (असम): मैं एसोसिएट नहीं कर रहा हूँ, सर।...(व्यवधान)... I am making a point. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, you should give a separate notice for it. You have not been allowed. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Naresh Gujral.

Storage of Foodgrains in the open in Punjab

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, last year, the country was planning to import wheat in order to augment its buffer stocks. However, thanks to two bumper crops, Punjab has once again come to the country's rescue and the country has enough food stocks in its kitty. Unfortunately, we don't have adequate storage facilities for our stocks. Punjab has wheat stocks of over 9.5 million tonnes, besides old rice stock of over five lakh metric tonnes. Bulk of these stocks are lying in the open. Unless immediate action is taken, lakhs of tonnes would be rendered unfit for human consumption. The Centre has turned down Punjab