

### Land in Assam occupied by neighbouring States

\*375. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) hectare-wise details of land in Assam being occupied by its neighbouring States, that is Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, and steps taken by the Central Government as well as the State Government to evacuate the land and to improve the inter-State relationship;

(b) the present status of the people, who were bound to leave Arunachal Pradesh last year after the deadline given by the student bodies; and

(c) the action taken by the Government of Assam and central agencies towards the foreign infiltrators, who have been identified and caught by the other State police and thrown into Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are some border disputes between the States of Assam-Nagaland, Assam-Arunachal Pradesh and Assam-Meghalaya. The Government of Assam has filed Original Suit No. 2/88 and 1/89 in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for demarcation of boundaries between the States of Assam-Nagaland & Assam-Arunachal Pradesh respectively. In these Original Suits, the Supreme Court of India vide its judgment dated 25.9.2006 has appointed a Local Commission for identification of boundaries of States of Assam-Nagaland and Assam-Arunachal Pradesh. Meetings of the Local Commission have been held at regular intervals. Last meeting of the Local Commission was held on 4.7.2009. In so far as boundary dispute between Assam and Meghalaya is concerned, the Central Government has advised both the State Governments to settle the dispute amicably. Meetings have been held at the level of Chief Secretaries and at the level of Chief Ministers of both the States.

(b) and (c) As per report received from Government of Assam, a total of 3680 persons were expelled from Arunachal Pradesh in the year 2007. Out of these, one person was found to be a Bangladeshi national and was deported. In case of another twenty-two (22) persons, cases have been registered under Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964. Remaining persons were found to be Indian Nationals and sent to their respective districts of their States. During the same period a total of 132 persons were expelled from Nagaland and after investigations such persons were found as Indian Nationals. Thirty-two (32) Foreigners Tribunals have been set up in the State of Assam for detection of foreigners/illegal migrants in the State. The powers of identification and deportation of illegally staying foreign nationals including Bangladeshi nationals have been delegated to the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations under Section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act. In order to check illegal infiltration from Bangladesh, steps have been taken to strengthen the Border Security Force and equipping them with modern equipments, reduction of gaps between the border posts and intensified patrolling. The border fence along the Bangladesh border is being strengthened and a scheme for flood lighting has been approved. Besides, the issue of illegal migrants from Bangladesh is regularly taken up at various fora and steps have been taken for coordinated patrolling, identification of vulnerable gaps, strengthening of riverine patrolling. Bangladesh has also been urged to take effective steps to check the illegal movement of their nationals into India, especially through vulnerable and riverine areas.