(b) whether the total number of Bangladeshi citizens residing in India without proper documents or permits are estimated to be two crores;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether just only 600 Bangladeshi migrants had been deported to their country in the last one year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to deal with the migrant population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) As entry of such illegal Bangladeshi immigrants into the country is clandestine and surreptitious, it is not possible to estimate the total number of such illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in the country.

(d) and (e) As per information available, during the year 2008, 12,625 Bangladeshi nationals were deported to Bangladesh. Central Government is vested with the powers to deport a foreign national under section 3(2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. These powers to identify and deport illegally staying foreign nationals have also been delegated to the State Governments/UT Administrations. The procedure for the detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants has also been set out and circulated to State Governments/UT Administrations who are implementing the same on a continuous basis.

Implementation of Assam Accord

1448. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the clause-wise time frame agreed for implementation of the Assam Accord and action taken so far on each of the clauses till October, 2009;

(b) whether the process of updating the National Register of Citizen (NRC) in Assam has started;

(c) if so, the details of achievement made thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and target set to complete the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Action has been completed on various clauses of the Assam Accord. Certain clauses of the Accord *viz* economic development of Assam, measures to prevent infiltration are of continuous nature and need to be monitored continuously. Clause wise implementation status of Accord is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) The Government of Assam has initiated steps for updating of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) 1951 on the basis of the relevant records. The Central Government has also provided a sum of Rs. 3.02 crore to the Government of Assam for computerization of the relevant records. A notification amending the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National

identity cards) Rules, 2003 has been issued on 9th November, 2009 for preparation of National Register of Citizens (NRC), 1951 in Assam. This would enable taking up the process of updating NRC in Assam.

Statement

Clause-wise implementation status of the Assam Accord

Clause 5 - Foreigners issue:

(i) The Citizenship Act, 1955, Citizenship Rules, 1956 and the Foreigners Tribunals Order, 1964, were amended.

(ii) Special Registration Officers have been appointed for registration of persons detected as foreigners who entered Assam between 1.1.1966 to 24.3.71.

(iii) A total of 3153 including 1280 additional posts, sanctioned under Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners (PI F) scheme to assist State Government and Border Security Force (BSF) in detection and deportation of foreigners/illegal migrants and act as a second line of defence.

(iv) Thirty-two Foreigners Tribunals have been constituted in the State of Assam under the provisions of Foreigners Act, 1946 for detection of illegal migrants/foreigners. Additional 4 Foreigners Tribunals have been set up in the State of Assam.

Clause 6 & 7 - Safeguards and Economic Development:

(i) A Cultural Centre called the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalashetra Complex has been established.

(ii) Sri Jyoti Chitraban (Film) Studio at Guwahati has beam modernized. Additional Rs. 10 crore has been sanctioned for further expansion/modernization of the Institute in the financial year 2006-07.

(iii) The Government of Assam has constituted a Committee of Ministers in October 2006 to examine all issues relating to the implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

(iv) Numaligarh Refinery was set up at a cost of nearly Rs.2,500 crores.

(v) Two Central Universities, one at Tejpur, and the other at Silchar, have been set up.

(vi) An IIT has been set up at Guwahati.

(vii) Kathalguri Power Project (60 MW) has been commissioned.

(viii) Work for implementation of Assam Gas Cracker Project and Bogibeel rail-cum road project have started.

Clause 8 to 14 - Other issues:

(i) The power to issue citizenship certificates now vests only with the Central Government.

(ii) As on 30.6.2009 out of 3286.87 KM fencing sanctioned along Indo-Bangladesh border, 2655 KM of border fence has been completed. In Assam sector, out of 223 KM (Phase I & II) of sanctioned fencing along Indo-Bangladesh border, 219 KM has been completed. Since the fencing erected under Phase-1 had outlived its life, therefore, it is being replaced with a composite type fencing.

(iii) *Ex-gratia* payment was made to the next of kin of persons killed in the course of the agitation.

(iv) Disciplinary cases against employees in connection with the agitation were reviewed.

(v) In the matter of recruitment, orders were issued by the Central Government for relaxation in upper age limit upto a maximum of six years in the case of candidates who had ordinarily resided in the State of Assam during the period 1.1.1980 to 15.8.1985.

(vi) NSA detenues detained in connection with agitation were released.

Relaxation in Visa Rules

1449. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating relaxations in Visa for industrial/business venture or employment;

(b) if so, the details of number of Visas annually issued in these categories for different nationals at present; and

(c) the policy to regulate the unskilled people from China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and other countries entering into Indian market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The information regarding number of business and employment visas issued annually is not centrally maintained.

(c) The matter has been reviewed by the Government and it has been decided that, henceforth Business Visa will be issued only to *bonafide* businessmen who want to visit India to establish an industrial/business venture or to explore possibilities to set up industrial business venture in India or who want to purchase/sell industrial products or commercial products or consumer durable etc. It has also been decided that Employment Visa will be granted only to skilled