

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(Amendment) Bill, 1997 and the Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1997 and the Himachal Pradesh Cooperative Societies Bill, 1997 etc. are pending for approval of the Union Government;

(b) whether Government propose to accord its approval in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) While the assent of the President of India to the Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1999 has been conveyed to the State Government on 30.3.2000, the assent to the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Himachal Pradesh (Amendment) Bill, 1995 has been withheld due to inconsistency with the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959 and article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India.

As regards the Himachal Pradesh Cooperative Societies Bill, 1997, the State Government informed the Government of India in May 1999, that they have constituted a High level Committee to re-examine the said proposal afresh and that the Government of India would be apprised about amendments, if any, that might be suggested by that Committee, in due course of time. No fresh proposal has been received from the State Government in this regard so far.

Bangladeshis in India

2552. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bangladeshis who have migrated to India till now and what is the number of such persons coming daily to India after crossing Bangladesh border;

(b) the States/Union Territories which have been bearing the burnt of their influx and the number of such persons in Assam and other North-Eastern States, separately;

(c) what is the action plan to repatriate them and issue identity cards to them as long as they are on this soil; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to seal our border with Bangladesh and if not, what are the other options under contemplation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) In view of the long and porous border with Bangladesh and also on account of various push and pull factors, many Bangladeshis have managed to sneak into various parts of the country. It is difficult to make a realistic estimate of the number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities.

(c) The powers of detection and deportation of foreigners have been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, under Section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. Instructions have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to intensify efforts to identify and deport illegal foreign nationals and also to sensitise the local population about the magnitude and seriousness of the problem. There is no proposal at present to issue identity cards to Bangladeshi nationals.

(d) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These include raising of additional Battalions of Border Security Force. Reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provisions of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also been directed to enforce the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946(IMDT Act 1983 in case of Assam) strictly.