

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of foreign visitors are not returning to their native nations; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the new visa system will keep a track of foreign visitors whereabouts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLAY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposed visa sticker has an implanted photograph alongwith a Machine Readable Zone (MRZ). The photograph prevents the usage of the visa sticker by another person whereas the machine readable visa facilities easy recording of the visa details in the database which can be used both for preventing the illegal usage of a lost visa sticker and for getting alarms on foreigners overstaying their visa validity period, thereby helping the Government to keep a track on such foreigners.

(c) and (d) As per the details received from the State Governments, as on 31.12.2009, 65750 foreigners (excluding Pakistani nationals) were overstaying in the country.

The proposed visa sticker can be read by the machine automatically enabling capturing of the requisite visa details the arrival of the foreigners. Based on the captured details, the overstay of the foreigners would be highlighted by the visa system. Using other databases collected by the registration authorities, the overstaying foreigners can be tracked.

Indian villages on other side of barbed fencing on Indo-Bangladesh IB

†1850. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE :

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that two Indian villages situated at Indo-Bangladesh international border lie on the other side of barbed wire put up for checking Bangladeshi infiltration;
- (b) whether villages have to face problems as a consequences;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that villagers give information to Border Security Force regarding illegal activities of Bangladeshi citizen in border areas;

(d) whether these villagers want to come and live within India's border; and

(e) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLAY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has undertaken the project for construction of fencing along Indo-Bangladesh border to check cross border infiltration and illegal activities. The alignment of the fencing is being fixed by BSF in consultation with State Government, keeping in view the condition of terrain, presence of hills, forest areas, low-lying tracts, presence of population and agreed Joint Boundary Guideline between India and Bangladesh. Therefore, some villages have been left ahead of fencing but within the zero line at International border (IB). Sufficient number of gates have been provided at regular intervals in the fencing for easy movement of villagers. These gates are being operated as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) formulated by BSF in consultation with village Panchayat and local villagers. Regular periodical meetings are held in the field for the redressal of grievances of the border population with the help of local Public Representatives.

(c) The Border Security Force (BSF) used to take help and co-operation from the villagers in handling trans-border criminal activities.

(d) and (e) The Government is aware of the problems being faced by the villagers due to construction of fencing along Indo-Bangladesh border. Many steps are being taken to assist the villagers in the process of removal of their grievances. Financial assistance on the pattern of "Indra Awas Yojana" is also being given for construction of alternate house within the fencing. Alignment of the fencing is also being changed depending upon specific location of the terrain to keep the villagers within the fencing. Under Indra Awas Yojana, the Government has already provided 7744 houses in Tripura and 186 houses in Assam for the families left ahead of fencing for bringing them inside the fencing.

Missing children in Delhi

1851. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARQUE :

PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: