Illegal Immigration in India

864. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of foreign immigrants living illegally in India is declining, but India continues to be among the 10 countries with the highest immigration in the world;

(b) if so, whether Government has proposed any strategy to check foreign immigrants living illegally in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has given any directions to the State Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and to what extent there is a proper check on such illegal immigrants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) As per information available, the number of foreign nationals who have entered into the country on valid travel documents and were found to be overstaying came down from 73,441 as on 31.12.2009 to 69,188 as on 31.12.2010. However, there is no specific data indicating the position of India in the world in the matter of immigration.

(b) to (e) Police authorities in the States/Union Territories and other law enforcement agencies are aware of the issues of illegal immigration and they maintain a strict vigil on the activities of such foreign nationals, Central Government is vested with 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. Detection and deportation of such illegal immigrants is a continuous process. A revised procedure for detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants was communicated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in November, 2009, which was partially modified in February, 2011. The procedure includes sending back then and there, the illegal immigrants who are intercepted at the border while entering India unauthorisedly.

Central Government is also implementing a Mission Mode Project on Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) which also facilitates improved tracking of foreigners by integrating and sharing information captured during visa issuance at Missions, during immigration check at the Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) and during registration at the Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs)/ Foreigners Registration Offices (FROs).