

The House then adjourned at thirty-two minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at one of the clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Steps to combat increasing communalism

*42. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to combat increasing communalism in the country;

(b) keeping in view the increase in religious extremism and intolerance to each other's religious rights, violating Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution, what steps Government proposes to take to safeguard the fundamental rights of citizens and their right to practise religion; and

(c) whether Government would consider involving NGOs in fighting the menace of communalism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) to (c) As per available information, 694 communal incidents were reported during January-October 2013 while 561 communal incidents were reported during January-October 2014. There has, thus, been a decline of 19% in communal incidents during the period January-October 2014 as compared to the corresponding period of 2013. The Constitution of India guarantees the Right to Freedom of Religion under Article 25 and 26 and violations of such rights are dealt with under the extant laws in force. The Central Government issues alerts and advisories on developments having bearing on communal harmony, share advance intelligence with the States and UTs and deploy Central Armed Police Forces including RAF on the request of the States/UTs to render assistance in such situations. The Communal Harmony Guidelines of 2008 circulated by the Central Government, amongst others, provide for the involvement of voluntary organizations to maintain communal harmony and to defuse tension in the event of communal situation.

Development of tourist places on the pattern of Santosa island, Singapore

*43. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to develop certain places of tourist interest on the pattern of Santosa Island of Singapore;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by when the identified tourist places are likely to be developed and start earning profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) At present Ministry of Tourism does not have any such proposal to develop certain places of tourist interest on the pattern of Santosa Island of Singapore.

Reang community of Mizoram taking refuge in Tripura

*44. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 35 thousand people, mostly from the Reang (Bru) community from Mamit and some other districts of Mizoram have taken refuge in Tripura, due to some local problem in the State;
- (b) if so, the facts behind the migration, their exact number and their condition at present;
- (c) whether the Central Government and the State Government of Mizoram are launching any initiative for peaceful repatriation and holistic rehabilitation of these victim families to their homesteads; and
- (d) if so, what are the details of initiatives and ingredients of the rehabilitation packages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) to (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Due to ethnic tension between Reang tribals and Mizos, about 30,000 Reang (Bru) people (about 5000 families) from Western Mizoram migrated from October 1997 onwards. The Bru migrants are sheltered in the six relief camps set up in Kanchanpur and Panisagar Sub-Divisions of North Tripura. The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken measures to repatriate the Bru Refugees in their homes in Mizoram in a phased manner. The Ministry of Home Affairs is extending financial as well as other logistical assistance to both the State Government of Mizoram and Tripura so that the repatriation is accomplished smoothly. The repatriation process started in November, 2010 and as on date approx. 1210 Reang families (approx. 5000-6000 people) have been repatriated.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Home Affairs has been extending grants-in-aid to Government of Tripura since 1997-98 for maintenance of Brus lodged in various relief camps for providing relief items like Rice, Ration/Cash dole *etc.* and to Government of Mizoram for rehabilitation and repatriation of Bru migrants since 2004-05.