

- Construction of fence, border roads, floodlights and Border Out Posts(BOPs) along the Borders.
- Effective domination of the borders by the Border Guarding Forces (BGFs) through carrying out round the clock surveillance of the borders by patrolling nakas (border ambushes) and by deploying observation posts all along the international borders of the country.
- Usage of technological surveillance equipments along with day and night vision devices for further enhancing the border domination.
- More effective patrolling of riverine segments of International Borders of the country.
- Liaison with Police, intelligence agencies and local Government agencies is carried out on regular basis for sharing of intelligence and for conduct of joint operations to prevent any illegal/ anti-national activities.

(b) The total number of infiltrators apprehended and killed along the various borders of the country during the last six months (August 2015 to January 2016) are 2032 and 53 respectively.

Upgradation of existing pilgrimage and tourist places

*74. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government in consultation with State Governments proposes to upgrade existing pilgrimage and important tourist places in the country to international standard; and

(b) if so, the State-wise number of pilgrimage and tourist places identified for overall upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism (MOT) has launched following new plan schemes pursuant to the Budget 2014-15 announcements:

- (i) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) to beautify and improve the amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage centres of all faiths. Under PRASAD, thirteen sites have been identified namely Ajmer, Amritsar, Amaravati, Dwarka, Gaya, Kamakhya, Kanchipuram, Kedarnath, Mathura, Patna, Puri, Varanasi and Velankanni.

- (ii) Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Themes. 13 circuits have been identified under the Scheme namely North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

Tamils living as refugees or repatriates from Sri Lanka in India

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

(a) whether Government is aware of Stateless Tamils living either as refugees or repatriates from Sri Lanka in various refugee camps in India for the past forty years and being denied their human rights; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stand of Government of India and Sri Lanka in giving citizenship to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) to (b) As reported by the Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of Odisha, as on 01.01.2016, there are 64,144 refugees from Sri Lanka staying in 107 ordinary camps in Tamil Nadu and 22 refugees staying in 1 camp in Odisha. These camps are managed by the respective district administration. In addition, 36,861 refugees are staying outside the camps after getting themselves registered in the nearest police station.

Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who are residing in camps, are provided with accommodation, electricity, drinking water, toilet facilities etc. free of cost. In addition, other facilities such as monthly cash assistance, free clothing materials, utensils, subsidized ration etc. are provided. Besides this, the State Government is also extending various welfare schemes such as Girl Child Protection Scheme, Social Security Scheme, Maternity Financial Assistance Scheme, Marriage Assistance Scheme etc. to the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in the camps.

The Citizenship applications are processed as per the eligibility criteria and other provisions laid down in Citizenship Act, 1955 and rules made there under. The provisions of Act are applicable to all the foreigners and there is no discrimination on the basis of nationality or gender of a person.