

**Survey of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees**

1175. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has done any survey of the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in Tamil Nadu and other places of find out their willingness to return to their native country or get citizenship of India since they are living in refugee camps for more than 25 years and even after peace prevails in Sri Lanka according to UN Report; and

(b) if not, what is Government's commitment on refugee protection on life and livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of Odisha, as on 01.01.2016, there are 64,144 refugees staying in 107 ordinary camps in Tamil Nadu and 22 refugees staying in 1 camp in Odisha. In addition, 36861 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 and toilet facilities etc. free of cost. In addition, other facilities such as monthly cash assistance, free clothing materials, utensils, subsidised ration, educational assistance etc. are provided. Besides, 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.

On 16.12.2015, the Central Government decided to waive the visa fees and overstay penalty in respect of Sri Lankan refugees who came to India prior to 9th January, 2015 and who opt to voluntarily return to Sri Lanka.

**Infiltration on Indo-Bangladesh border through riverine border**

1176. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of large scale infiltration on Indo-Bangladesh border using boats through the riverine border;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the number of cases of infiltration through riverine border came to the notice of Government during last three years, year-wise; and