

Exclusion of Assam from NPR exercise

1486. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Population Register (NPR) exercise will be carried out between April and September, 2020 in all States and UTs, except Assam, along with the house listing phase of the census exercise;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the reasons for excluding Assam from this exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): (a) and (b) In pursuance of sub-rule (4) of Rule 3 of the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, framed under the Citizenship Act, 1955, Central Government has decided to prepare and update the population register between 1st April to 30th September, 2020 along with Houselisting and Housing Census throughout the country except Assam.

(c) On the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the hard copies of the supplementary list of inclusions and on-line family-wise list of exclusions have been published in the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Assam on 31st August, 2019.

Detention centres for foreigners

1487. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are detention centres for foreigners operational in Assam;

(b) whether it is also a fact that detention centres for foreigners are being constructed in any of the States namely Karnataka, Delhi, Goa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Punjab;

(c) if so, provide the data regarding the number of people currently detained in detention centres across the country and their country of origin; and

(d) how many people detained in these detention centres have been repatriated to their home countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): (a) Parts of jail premises located at Goalpara, Silchar, Kokrajhar, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Tezpur in Assam have been designated as Detention Centres by State Government of Assam.

(b) to (d) Central Government has been vested with powers under Section 3(2)(e) and 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detain and deport foreign nationals staying illegally in the country. Under Section 5 of The Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, Central Government may also by an Order direct the removal of any foreigner from India who enters India without passport and visa. These powers of the Central Government have also been entrusted under Article 258 (1) of the Constitution of India to all the State Governments since 1958. Similarly, under Article 239(1) of the Constitution of India, the Administrators of the Union Territories have also been directed to discharge the functions of the Central Government relating to the aforesaid powers.

State Governments or Union Territory Administrations are competent to establish Detention/Holding Centres as per their local requirement to detain any illegal migrants or such illegal aliens who have completed their jail sentence and whose nationality needs to be verified before deportation to their native country. State Governments/UT Administrations (UTs) do not require any specific approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs for setting up of such holding/detention centres. Details of such Centres set up by States/UTs are not centrally maintained.

Implementation of nationwide National Register of Citizens

1488. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government plans to implement a nationwide National Register of Citizens in the next four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): Till now, the Government has not taken any decision to prepare National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) at the National level.

Construction of detention centres

1489. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details such as number, names and places of detention centres that are being built as of 2019;