

Infiltration

*126. ⁺ SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infiltration from the border areas is increasing and ISI is adopting new methods to infiltrate foreign mercenaries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of illegal immigrants staying in the country indicating the countries to which they belong, State/UT-wise;

(d) the number of infiltrators arrested/killed so far at the borders during the current year;

(e) whether these intruders have been trained in Pakistan;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Union Government propose to start a drive against them;

(h) if so, the status of those non-citizens and their children born or likely to be born in the country;

(i) the details of deportation effected so far as per bilateral understanding; and

(j) the steps taken by the Union Government to check such infiltration across the borders?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (j) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Infiltration from border areas is checked by measures taken by the Government through erection of Border Fencing/Flood Lighting both on Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders, deployment of and alert/strict vigil by Border Security Force troops deployed along these borders.

However, there is no let-up in designs of Pak-ISI to send militants and foreign mercenaries from across the

border, who are being infiltrated in small groups alongwith expert guides after carefully selecting the infiltration routes.

(c) Nationals of some neighbouring countries viz. Bangladesh, Myanmar, Tibet region of China, Sri Lanka, etc. manage to enter illegally into India, but it is difficult to arrive at an exact estimate of the number of such illegal immigrants because they enter surreptitiously and mix with the local population due to their ethnic and linguistic similarities. It would be possible to have State/UT-wise details of illegal immigrants only if a drive is launched to identify and register them under the provisions of the Foreigners Act.

(d) Details of foreign infiltrators arrested/killed by BSF on the Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders during the year 1998 (upto 30 November) are as under:—

Nationality	Killed	Apprehended
Bangladesh	28	4840
Pakistan	61	86
Myanmar	3	348
Afghan	—	2
Iran	—	4
Others	—	4
Total	92	5284

(e) and (f) Intruders from Bangladesh border are mostly illegal immigrants, intruders from Pakistan and Myanmar border are generally drug smugglers, cross-border criminals, militants and mercenaries. The interrogation of militants and foreign mercenaries apprehended on the Western border indicates that Pak-ISI has been training militants at various training camps in Pakistan/Pak Occupied Kashmir.

(g) The Union Government and the concerned State Governments have been taking steps like construction of border fence along border with Bangladesh, tightening vigil along this border by border Security Force and

Schemes for detection and deportation of illegal immigrants as in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and West Bengal. It is felt that issue of identity Cards to all Indian citizens and compulsory registration of all foreign nationals would also help in checking illegal immigration.

(h) As per Section 3 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, every person born in India on or after 26.1.1950 but before 1.7.1987 shall be a citizen of India by birth irrespective of the nationality of the parents. However, a person shall be a citizen of India by birth on or after 1.7.1987 only if either of his parents is a citizen of India at the time of his birth. Accordingly, the status of these illegal immigrants and their children born after 1.7.1987 is that of illegal aliens.

(i) Country-wise figures of foreigners deported during 1997 are indicated in the statement at Annexure-I.

(j) The steps already taken by the Union Government to check infiltration and illegal immigration are indicated in the statement at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

Statement showing country-wise figures of foreigners deported during 1997

Country	Deported
1	2
Bangladesh	3694
Myanmar	593
Srilanka	211
Pakistan	209
U.S.A.	44
Afghanistan	35
Germany	26

1	2
U.K.	26
Malaysia	15
France	14
Indonesia	11
Sweden	11
Canada	10
Iraq	10
Netherlands	10
Nigeria	10
Denmark	9
China	8
Japan	8
Australia	6
China (Taiwan)	6
Singapore	6
Stateless	6
Iran	5

ANNEXURE-II

1	2	
		<i>Statement showing steps taken by the Union Government to check infiltration across the borders</i>
Italy	5	(1) STRENGTHENING OF THE BORDER SECURITY FORCE
Newzealand	5	This includes —
Korea	4	(i) raising of additional battalions under the expansion plan of the Border Security Force;
Norway	3	(ii) reducing gaps between the Border Out Posts;
Philipines	3	(iii) increase in the number of OP towers;
Tanzania	3	(iv) provision of surveillance equipments and night vision devices; and
Croatia	2	(v) raising of riverine water wing of the Border Security Force.
Czech	2	(2) FENCING, FLOOD LIGHTING AND PATROLLING
Portugal	2	This includes —
Seychelles	2	(i) construction of border roads and fence on the Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders;
Somalia	2	(ii) flood lighting in the sensitive stretches on the Indo-Pak border; and
South Africa	2	(iii) intensification of patrolling among the border.
Yemen	2	(3) SURVEILLANCE ON THE COASTAL AREA
Austria	1	This includes —
Ghana	1	(i) intensive surveillance by Naval vessels on the high seas;
Nepal	1	(ii) joint Coast Guard Navy surveillance in the territorial waters; and
Russia	1	(iii) patrolling by joint detachments of Navy (Coast Guard), customs and State Police through trawlers in the shallow waters along the shore.
Sudan	1	(4) INTELLIGENCE GATHERING, SHARING AND COORDINATION
Total	38245	Intelligence gathering is being constantly monitored to ensure that more and more pin-pointed and actionable intelligence is available. Mechanisms have been set up

to share such information, promptly with the State Governments.

(5) OTHER MEASURES

There are schemes such as Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners (PIF) in Assam and Meghalaya and Mobile Task Force (MTF) in West Bengal and Tripura which are being implemented by the concerned States to detect infiltrators.

Standing instructions have been issued to the Border Security Force, State Government and UT Administrations for detection and deportation of infiltrators.

Based on the reports received from the States of the North Eastern Region and West Bengal, Border Security Force and other agencies, a regular review is undertaken to monitor the situation on an on-going basis.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: My question is on infiltration. Sir, in this regard a detailed reply has been placed on the Table of the House by the hon. Home Minister. There, on Annexure-I, a statement is shown giving country-wise figures of persons deported during 1997. There, Bangladesh alone accounts for 36,914. That means, they were mostly from the States of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. Is the hon. Home Minister aware that in the name of detecting foreigners, the minorities are put to great harassment? I cited the period of 1.1.1986 to 31.7.1993 wherein the police booked 2,87,625 cases.

As per the provisions of the IMDT Act, these cases have to go to a Scrutiny Committee of the SP and the DC. The DC-SP Committee found only 25,051 cases fit to be sent to the Tribunal and the rest of the cases were found to be false. These are the figures up to September, 1993. We do not know the latest figures. Will the hon. Minister the Home Affairs inquire into it? What is the up-to-date position so far as the findings of the infiltration cases are concerned? What is the total number of cases sent to the Tribunal? How are they disposed of?

Secondly, I want to know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask a second supplementary later.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: I want to know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs the up-to-date figures, say, up to the 31st March, 1998 regarding the total number of cases sent to the tribunal, the total number of

cases booked by the police and the result of the cases sent to the Tribunal. I would also like to know whether the allegations of harassment of these more than 2,50,000 people will be looked into.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue relates to illegal immigrants into the country. If we were to consider the dimensions of illegal immigration into the country, I would think that there is a failure on the part of the Government to see that these illegal immigrants are deported in a proper manner, rather than there being a charge that the Government is being very severe or very strict and taking action unjustly. If there is any specific allegation of any kind, if there is any injustice done in even a single case, we would certainly like to investigate it and see that correctives are applied. On the whole, I would think that the situation today warrants that the law in respect of illegal immigration be properly enforced.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: I come to my next supplementary. The figures supplied by me were given by the Government of Assam. They were quoted in the Assam Legislative Assembly as well as the Guwahati High Court. I would like to know whether from 1.1.1986 to 31.7.1993 nearly three lakh cases were booked, out of which about 2,70,000 cases were found to be false. Will the hon. Minister of Home Affairs inquire into it? He is the depository of the IMDT Act in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I will certainly inquire into this but at the present point of time, the general feeling is that that particular Act is not very effective insofar as checking illegal immigration is concerned.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The ISI activities and infiltration are both combined. This combination is harming our internal security and immigrants increase on account of infiltration.

I have a faith—I do not know whether my colleagues share it or not that there was some weakness in sharing information and follow-up action in the system. This was why these activities were increasing. Some initiatives were taken from the district level to the Central level for sharing information at the district level with the Central and State agencies. Even zones were created up to the level that a unified command was created in both the North East and the Jammu and Kashmir sectors. May I know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs whether that process is on, if any amendment has been brought to that process or any other initiative has been taken? As the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has said sometimes that 'hot pursuit' is the only solution to the ISI activities, could he

enlighten us whether that 'hot pursuit' is over and above those efforts? Or, is it a new technique which has been initiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I would urge the House to draw a distinction between the deliberate infiltration which is engineered by the ISI and the illegal immigration which goes on because of other reasons.

This distinction has to be drawn. The Government is conscious that insofar as deliberately engineered infiltration is concerned, the Government has to be very severe. But quite a large number of illegal immigrants cannot be called as ISI agents. They have come in because of other factors, not only in Assam, even in West Bengal, Tripura and other parts of the North East. The Government has a proper approach to this. So far as infiltrators are concerned, we have to be stern with them. So far as the problem of illegal immigration is concerned, the Government does propose to identify these immigrants. Then, we also have a view, a scheme which we describe as a scheme of providing identity cards to all citizens and non-citizens. This is what we have in mind. So far as the earlier scheme that you have referred to is concerned, that is on in its own way.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Siliguri Corridor the number of infiltration is very high. We have come to know that earlier 15 battalions of B.S.F. were kept there but the next Government reduced it to 5. Through you, I want to ask whether the Ministry has chalked out any strategy to tackle the day-by-day increasing number of infiltrators.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There is no limit fixed for the number of battalions of B.S.F. for any area. Deployment is undertaken as per the requirements. You have mentioned about Siliguri, I will look into it.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, in his reply, the hon. Home Minister has made a mention about certain actions to check infiltration. I want to have some clarifications regarding that.

(a) I want to know about the construction of border fencing along Bangladesh border. What is the present position of this fencing activity? May I know whether it has been taken up seriously, whether it is continuing and if so, when it will be completed?

(b) Regarding deportation, may I know whether you have any recent agreement with the Government of Bangladesh? If so, what is that agreement?

(c) This is on foreigners about whom you have already mentioned. But I want to know concretely because I had suggested this in the House that the foreigners who are coming here for jobs or for any other purpose will have to be compulsorily registered. At which stage this scheme is there in the Government of India? May I know whether you are making any law or rules or any other thing to get those persons who are coming from abroad for jobs or for any other purpose registered here?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: So far as border fencing is concerned, the Government of India has undertaken border fencing. So far as West Bengal is concerned, the border is of 2217 kms.—it is for roads—out of which the sanctioned fence is for 507 kms. of which work in 453 kms. has been completed. In all, a stretch of about 790 kms. has been fenced and the balance out of the sanctioned work is 106 kms.

But as everyone is aware, the nature of terrain makes border fencing a very difficult job. It is not like Punjab or Rajasthan where almost the entire border has been fenced with the result the illegal immigration as well as smuggling has come down considerably in the Western part. Here, there are difficulties, but the Government is carrying on with the job.

[Translation]

Unemployment

*127. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA:
SHRI RAM PAL UPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of unemployed persons has increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(c) the number of unemployed who could not be provided jobs through Employment Exchanges even after three years of their registration, State-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.