

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3052
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005
REFUGEES FROM EAST PAKISTAN
Borkatakya Shri Narayan Chandra

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan and present Bangladesh will be covered and get refugee status under the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to rehabilitate them in the country including redistribution in other States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has used the same definition and meaning for the term `refugees` and `displaced persons` while dealing with the persons/immigrants from Pakistan and Bangladesh;
- (e) if so, the details of the Home Minister`s discretionary fund in this regard alongwith the criteria for utilization thereof;
- (f) whether the said fund has been utilized in Assam in the last three years; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIS. REGUPATHY)

- (a) to (c): As per the understanding between India and Bangladesh, persons who were forced to leave East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and came to India before 25.3.1971, would not be sent back to Bangladesh.
- (d): `Displaced persons` were defined in The Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950 and The Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954. Both these Acts, stand repealed w.e.f. 6.9.2005. Term `Refugee` was not defined in these two Acts.
- (e): The Union Home Minister does not have any discretionary fund for the persons who have entered into India from Bangladesh before 25.3.1971.
- (f) & (g): In view of (e) above, do not arise.