

Title: Need to ensure repatriation of Reang refugees from Tripura to Mizoram in a time-bound manner.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA WEST): Thank you, Sir.

I would like to raise one most important issue, which is about repatriation of Reang refugees in Tripura to Mizoram. During the period between October 1997 and January 1999, a large number of Reang tribals had entered Tripura, from Mizoram. Their current approximate number is about 31,000. They are accommodated in six relief camps. On humanitarian grounds, the Government of Tripura has accommodated them in six relief camps. The Government of Tripura has taken up the issue of the immediate repatriation, with the Government of Mizoram as well as with the Government of India.

There had been a number of meetings. The Chief Minister of Tripura has taken up the issue with the Union Home Minister, seeking his intervention, to resolve the issue. The Union Home Minister also has taken up meetings. Officials have also held several meetings and several decisions have been taken. But till now, no final decision has yet been arrived at and not a single refugee has gone back to Mizoram.

The refugees have created several problems in Tripura. They are: 1) deforestation, 2) encroachment of land, 3) competition with local population for employment, 4) rise of crime graph, etc. Their presence has also imposed a substantive administrative burden on the administration and impacted adversely on developmental efforts.

Delay in resolving the issue shall only serve to further complicate the situation on the ground.

MR. SPEAKER: You may please be brief. I have to call the next hon. Member to speak on the next subject.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS : I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take urgent pro-active steps to ensure repatriation of Reang refugees in a time-bound manner. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata Banerjee. She has given a notice on atrocities on minorities, etc.