

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2259 TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2014

Increase in number of illegal immigrants

2259. SHRI N.K. SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government is aware of increase in the number of illegal immigrants including Bangladeshi nationals in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such immigrants reported to have been overstaying or illegally staying in the country;

(c) whether the illegal immigrants have been found to be involved in criminal activities in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government to detect and deport such illegal immigrants?

Answer

(a)&(b): A number of foreign nationals including Bangladeshi nationals who have entered the country on valid travel documents have been found to be overstaying after expiry of their visa. As per information available, as on 30th June, 2013, 74,600 foreign nationals who had come to India on valid travel documents were found to be overstaying in the Country. There are also reports of foreign nationals having entered into India without valid travel documents. As entry of such foreign nationals into India is clandestine and surreptitious, it is not possible to have a correct estimate of such illegal immigrants living in the country.

(c)to(d): Involvement of such foreign nationals illegally staying in the country in criminal activities cannot be ruled out. Registration of cases and action thereon comes within the purview of police stations and State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations concerned. Law enforcing agencies maintain a strict vigil to intercept the foreigners overstaying in India. Central Government is vested with powers to deport a foreign national under section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. The powers to identify and deport illegally staying foreign nationals have also been delegated to the State Governments/ UT Administrations. Detection and deportation of such illegal immigrants is a continuous process. A revised procedure for detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants was communicated to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations in November, 2009, which was partially modified in February, 2011. The procedure includes sending back then and there, the illegal immigrants who are intercepted at the border while entering India unauthorisedly.