

# 'Compromise' Government Formula On Foreigners

GAUHATI, Oct. 29.—A "compromise" Government formula to solve the Assam problem envisages dispersal elsewhere of those foreigners who entered the State between 1961 and March 24, 1971, and their disfranchisement for at least 10 years, reports UNI.

The formula has provision for setting up of an impartial official machinery to detect such foreigners. Every persons detected as a foreigner will be allowed to contest within three months his claim to citizenship before a special tribunal constituted for this purpose.

The formula, drafted following informal talks between Central officials and leaders of the Assam agitation in August at New Delhi, proposes that such foreigners would be detected on the basis of existing relevant laws such as the Citizenship Act, Foreigners Act and the Passport Act.

Their names would be deleted from the electoral rolls, the Government would ensure their settlement outside Assam by giving them incentives and would not be eligible for citizenship unless they have resided outside Assam for 10 years. Foreigners who had entered Assam after March 24 1971, would be detected and deported and their names, if already on the electoral rolls, would be deleted.

The Government has also agreed to the agitators' demand that future citizenship certificates will be issued only by the Central Government authorities.

The formula also provides for a special appellate tribunal to enable a foreigner to file an appeal against any adjudication or trial by the special tribunal within a period of 45 days. There will be no appeal against the judgment of the appellate tribunal.

The Government proposes

continue detection of foreigners and in the process make use of the 1951 National Register of Citizens, electoral rolls, including those of 1952, and relevant public documents, such as, land records available with the Government and birth and death registers.

Those foreigners who had entered Assam between 1951-60 will be regularized. For this purpose this category would be identified so as to distinguish it from other categories.

The Government has also agreed, according to the formula, to deport those aliens who had been deported earlier but had "illegally" re-entered Assam.

"Also those foreigners having been already detected after 1961 and ordered to be deported, but did not leave, shall be deported or settled outside Assam".

The Government agreed to take "immediate, effective, practical steps" to prevent illegal entry of the foreigners by setting up physical barriers such as walls, barbed wire fencing at appropriate places and intensification of riverine patrolling.

The other features of the formula include, voters in Assam, after revision of the electoral rolls, will be issued identity cards with their photographs affixed. A household register will be prepared after issue of identity cards. It will be ensured that birth and death registers are duly maintained. Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards will be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural and linguistic identity and heritage of the indigenous people of Assam.

The formula further says that it will be ensured that relevant laws for prevention of encroachment of Government land and land in tribal belts and blocks are strictly enforced and unauthorized encroachers evicted as laid down under such laws.

The Government has promised speedy action to implement the formula.

AASU and Parishad, meanwhile, today announced their decision to hold a central mass rally at the Judges Field in Gauhati on November 10 to apprise the general public of the latest developments in the foreigners issue.

Our Special Representative adds, Assam movement leaders and senior Government officials today had a preliminary session in their 14th round of talks on the future of "foreigners".

The formal sessions begin tomorrow on the basis of two drafts, one offered by the Government in August and the other modifying the Government proposals submitted by the movement leaders.

Today's 40-minute talks did not take up the issue of "foreigners" at all, according to a spokesman of the Assam team.

Mr C. R. Krishnaswamy Rao Saheb, Cabinet Secretary, Mr T. N. Chaturvedi, Home Secretary, Mr M. L. Kampani, Additional Home Secretary, and Mr P. K. Kartha, Joint Secretary, Law Ministry, made up the official team at today's talks.

The All-Assam Students Union was represented by Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, president, Mr Bhrienu Phukan, general secretary, and Mr Nagen Sharma, and the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad by Mr Atul Bora and Mr Nibaran Bora. Mr K. N. Sharma accompanied them as interpreter.

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The Statesman.

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