

AASU wants Act amended

CALCUTTA, Oct. 2 (PTI)—The Assam movement leaders have agreed to accept as citizens the progeny of all those who appear in the National Register of citizens of 1951 and the electoral rolls of 1952, according to authoritative sources.

They have, however, sought amendment of the Citizenship Act to deny "citizenship by birth" status to India-born claimants, who, at the time of their birth, had parents who were foreigners.

This is a key point in the latest draft proposals the AASU and

AAGSP have made for the settlement of the foreign nationals issue.

The 14-point package is now being examined by the Union Law Ministry.

The package provides for acceptance on humanitarian grounds of all those who entered Assam before 1961, for distribution elsewhere in India of the 1961-71 entrants within six months of their detection, and placement of the post-1971 infiltrators in camps pending deportation.

The package also provides for

criteria to be applied for the determination of the date of entry with reference to land revenue records, electoral rolls and other public documents.

It seeks the establishment of a detection machinery on lines of the Prevention of Infiltration from Pakistan (PIP) scheme of 1964.

There is also a specific provision for protecting tribal lands from encroachments.

Constitutional, legal and administrative safeguards are also to be provided for protecting the linguistic, cultural and political identity of Assam.

The AASU and AAGSP have also sought the right to monitor the implementation of the scheme.

They have demanded the withdrawal of all "repressive" measures by the Government before they call off the agitation over the foreign nationals issue.

They have also sought the establishment of a no-man's land, erection of physical barriers and intensive patrolling to prevent further infiltrations.

UNI adds from Gauhati.

The central committee of the Aom Jatiyotabadi Dal, a major constituent of the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad, said the Union Government had no powers under Section 3 of the Foreigners Act to constitute tribunals to determine whether a person is a foreigner or not.

Dal secretary Arup Bordoloi said Article 323 (A) and 323 (B) of the Constitution clearly said Parliament had no powers to make laws for the adjudication or trial by tribunals of any disputes or complaints relating to determination of citizenship of a person.

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