

Infiltration Declines, Says Makwana

From Our Special
Representative

NEW DELHI, April 22—The number of Bangladesh nationals attempting to enter Assam and Meghalaya clandestinely has come down as a result of various measures taken by the Government to prevent such infiltration.

This was stated in the Lok Sabha today by the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Sri Yogendra Makwana while replying to a question by Srimati Kishori Sinha. The Minister said that Government had no information about contractors, Government officials, political leaders and landlords encouraging such people to infiltrate into India because of the cheap labour they offer. But there are evidences that such people come to India in search of employment.

In reply to the question by Sri S M Dev the Minister said there were several suggestions for effectively checking infiltration of Bangladeshis into Assam. One of them was construction of a wall on the Assam-Bangladesh border. The Government have taken various steps in this direction including intensification of patrolling. However, the Minister did not give any positive reply whether the suggestion for the construction of a wall was under consideration of the Central Government.

Between 1977 and 1980, a total of 6,26,379 persons entered West Bengal from Bangladesh with valid documents. Of them 1,69,374 persons did not go back; the Minister told Sri Sudhir Giri in reply to a question.

In reply to another question the Minister confirmed a report published in a Calcutta daily that of the 2,19,305 Bangladeshi nationals who came to West Bengal last year 53,043 did not return to Bangladesh so far. These are not refugees and hence action is being taken against them whose period of visa had ended.

In reply to another question by Sri Hannan Mollah the Minister said that a few cases of forged visas were reported by the West Bengal Government. In some cases the Government of India permitted the State Government to

allow them to go back to Bangladesh by making necessary 'Leave India' endorsements of their passports and initiate action to blacklist them.

The West Bengal Government have further been instructed to indicate on the passport of the Bangladesh national that he had entered on a forged visa. Such persons should be taken in a lot to convenient border posts and handed over to Bangladesh authorities with their passports. The State Government had further been asked to blacklist such persons and alert the border check posts to be more vigilant.

In reply to another question by Sri M Ram Gopal Reddy, the Minister said that according to the Government of Tripura there has been an increase in the number of raids and dacoities by armed gangs along Tripura borders with Bangladesh. Against 17 in 1979 there were 56 such incidents last year. Intensive patrolling by BSF and border wing of the Home Guards is being carried out to check such incidents.

The Minister told Sri Ajoy Biswas that the request of the Government of Tripura for financial assistance to raise a third armed police battalion was not acceded to by the Government of India and the State Government had been apprised of the Centre's decision. Sri Makwana did not give any reasons for this refusal.

Strike By GU Teachers Students, Employees

By A Staff Reporter
GAUHATI, April 22—The teachers, students and workmen of the Gauhati University struck work today in protest against yesterday's raid in some of the hostels of the university by CRP and arrest of one student.

Most of the buildings in the campus at Jalukbari looked vacant and closed today as none was present. A skeleton staff of the examination branch, who were exempted from the purview of the strike attended the office.

The decision for a day's token strike was taken yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the university community. The meeting condemned the CRP raid in some of the hostels in early hours of yesterday. The University community urged the Government not to violate the sanctity of the highest academic institution in the State. It demanded immediate and unconditional release of the arrested student.

23 - April - 1981

The Assam Tribune.