

New Formula To Detect Aliens In Assam

NEW DELHI, July 11.—A "new formula" has been evolved by Union Government officials and the Assam movement leaders to solve the foreign nationals issue, informed sources said, report PTI and UNI. The formula, arrived at after two hours of hard bargaining today, will be submitted to Mr Zail Singh, Union Home Minister, on his return to the Capital from a tour, and will be further scrutinized tomorrow.

The sources said the formula was mainly a reiteration of the position taken by the All Assam Students Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad—that detection must be on the basis of the 1951 National Register of Citizens and the 1952 electoral rolls.

The new formula provides for the detection and categorization of foreigners between those who entered Assam during 1951-61 and those during 1961-71.

The entrants between 1961-71, who were earlier detected but could not be deported, or those who were deported but returned, will now be deported. The future of the other foreigners will be decided later.

The border with Bangladesh will be sealed to prevent further infiltration.

Constitutional provisions will be made to safeguard the cultural identity of Assam, and these will be in force for about 25 years.

The Assam Congress (I) president, Mr Lalit Kumar Doley, today denied that he had welcomed the imposition of President's rule in Assam.

He said in a statement that since the 72 MLAs belonging to the Left and other parties had withdrawn their support to the Congress (I) Ministry, there was no alternative to placing the State under President's rule.

The question of forming the next Ministry by the Congress (I) will be taken care of by the party high command.

Our Special Representative adds: A three-member delegation of the Citizens' Right Preservation Committee today met Mr Zail Singh, the Minister of State for Home, Mr P. Venkatasubbiah, Home Ministry officials and the Cabinet Secretary to discuss the Assam situation.

ETHNIC ROOTS

In a note submitted to the Home Minister and the Prime Minister, the delegation said that "the current agitation had its root in the vexed linguistic and ethnic problems of different groups of people". The Assam issue could only be solved, therefore, by solving the problems of the different linguistic and ethnic groups.

The delegation suggested the creation of a climate of peace and harmony, in which the vexed issues involved might be discussed and a workable formula could be evolved to help preserve the linguistic, religious and ethnic identity and to protect the constitutional rights of all sections of the people.

The delegation, which consisted of Mr Golam Osmani, former Minister of Assam, Mr Tarapada Bhatlacharyaya, general secretary, CRPC and Mr Nripati Ranjan Choudhury, a former M.P., left for Assam today.

THE STATEMENT

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