

# No Solution Yet: Talks To Continue Today

1981  
THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

P2

## NEW DELHI, JULY 14—SRI ZAIL SINGH, UNION HOME MINISTER, AND ASSAM MOVEMENT LEADERS AGAIN FAILED TODAY TO AGREE ON WHO ARE THE FOREIGNERS IN ASSAM THAT ARE TO BE MOVED OUT, REPORTS PTI

Sri Zail Singh also declined to sign with All Assam Students' Union and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad an agreement on seven points which he asserted the Government agreed in principle.

Sri Zail Singh all the same persuaded the Gauhati delegations to return to talks with the Government of India officials on the foreign nationals issue tomorrow and the movement leaders agreed to the suggestion.

Sri Zail Singh told reporters after two hours of talks at the North Block that the Government insisted on issuing citizenship certificates according to 'policy instructions' applicable to Assam.

This means that East Pakistani minorities who entered Assam till 1971 because of persecution or fear of persecution would be granted Indian citizenship.

The movement leaders demand that citizenship should be granted only in accordance with the provisions of the Constitutions and the laws applicable all over India.

Sri Zail Singh said there was no need for him to sign an agreement with the Assam movement leaders as the Government's acceptance of the seven points had been announced on the floor of Parliament.

The seven points are (1) Foreigners should be detected (2) Their names should be deleted from the electoral rolls (3) No more foreigners should be entered in the electoral rolls (4) Photo identity cards should be issued to voters (5) Border should be protected (6) The cultural identity of the indigenous people of Assam should be safeguarded (7) The authority to issue citizenship certificates should be shifted from State Government to the Central Government.

Sri Zail Singh said the

in other States such of the post-1971 infiltrators who cannot be deported but have to be granted citizenship of India.

The Assam movement leaders said the refusal of Sri Zail Singh to sign a written agreement on points accepted by the Government showed that there is a difference between what the Government says and what it wishes to do.

They said the foreigners themselves would teach a lesson to the Government if it failed to find a solution to the foreign nationals issue.

Sri L C Rajkhowa, Adviser to AASU, told pressmen that there could be no compromise on deportation of foreign nationals from Assam.

'We will march and march and march till we achieve an honourable solution that is to the satisfaction of the people of Assam. For a foreigner is a foreigner.'

He affirmed that it was the moral duty of the Government to safeguard 'a small nationality' whose identity, culture and heritage is threatened by foreigners.

Meanwhile, Sri Bhrigu Phukan, General Secretary of All Assam Students' Union, and Sri Nibaran Bora, senior leader of All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad, said tonight they had agreed to return to 'mini committee' deliberations because Sri Zail Singh, Union Home Minister, said his officials might have something for them tomorrow.

They said that they would go ahead with their plan to return to Gauhati on Thursday if there was no breakthrough tomorrow.

Sri Phukan said the main point of difference was the principle for detection of foreigners.

He said the Government wanted to use a wide range of documents like ration cards, school certificates and bank accounts for determining the identity of persons challenged.

This was not acceptable to the movement leaders, he added.

Sri Phukan said he had drawn the attention of officials to a 1963 publication

Sri Phukan said school certificates issued by institutions recognised by the Board of Education alone were acceptable to them.

But the Government was insisting on treating all school certificates as valid evidence of citizenship, he said.

Our Special Representative adds: The main reason why the talks on foreigners issue in Assam floundered in the Committee level meeting yesterday was the introduction of new elements in determining the citizenship of the people.

Three elements were promotion certificates in schools and ration card. The two conditions were discussed earlier between the AASU and the AAGSP representatives with the Home Minister. In that discussion it was agreed that they could not be accepted as evidence of one's Indian citizenship.

The Government representatives also insisted that policy instructions will have to be accepted. The agitation leaders refused to accept it as three instruction had neither legal or constitutional base.

The General Secretary of the AASU, Sri Bhrigu Phukan produced a Government document where instance of as many as 12 cases of spurious ration cards were produced as proof of Indian citizenship. This was rejected and such persons were deported in 1963. The then Pakistani Government carried out a vicious propaganda against the Assam Government saying Indian citizens were being deported from Assam basing their arguments on the ration cards. The document was published by the Government of India.

Reference was also made by the official team to the Nehru Liaquat Pact of 1950. The agitation leaders pointed out that the Pact signed on April 8 1950 ended on December 31, the same year. Therefore there was no question of accommodating any one under this Pact. The Home Secretary, Sri P Bornee conceded this point.

The agitation representatives pointed out that while

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE  
15/ July - 1981