

Assam agitation leaders submit revised draft proposals

GAUHATI, Oct. 27.

The All Assam Students Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad have submitted a 15-point revised draft proposal to the Centre as a basis for a solution to the foreign nationals issue, it is reported here.

The revised draft was drawn up by the joint committee of the two organisations and submitted to the Government delegation during the last official level talks in New Delhi on August 23.

The draft says that all foreigners should be detected on the basis of the Constitution and the relevant laws, namely the Citizenship Act, 1955, Foreigners Act, 1946 and Passport Act, 1952.

It points out that in doing so the National Register of Citizens of 1951 and the electoral rolls of 1952 and land records — meaning "pattas" and final jamabandi only — should be made use of.

AASU and AAGSP say that Pakistani citizens cannot be granted Indian citizenship, except on a purely reciprocal basis, as laid down in Section five (2) (E) of the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955.

In detecting the foreigners, the Indian citizenship certificates, already issued by the State Governments under the said section of the Act, should not be accepted.

They have proposed the deletion

of the all foreigners' names forthwith from the electoral rolls in accordance with the existing electoral laws.

Difficulties in deporting: The draft says as the Government has expressed practical difficulties in deporting all foreigners, it was agreed to categorise the foreigners into three groups.

The two organisations may allow the stay of these foreigners who entered Assam between January 1, 1951 and December 3, 1962, of humanitarian considerations.

All tribal belts and blocks should be strictly protected. Foreigners found occupying or possessing land in reserve tribal belts and blocks should be evicted forthwith and their possession occupation of, land and immovable property thereon, should vest in the Government in accordance with the Assam land and revenue regulations.

The following categories of foreigners should be deported irrespective of their date of entry into India (1) foreigners identified and declared earlier but not deported; (2) foreigners who were deported earlier but reentered "illegally"; (3) foreigners staying in the country after the expiry of their passport, visas and other travel documents; (4) foreigners who have already been issued a "quit India notice" and (5) those foreigners found in future to have "illegally" reentered Assam after their deportation.

Settlement outside Assam: Foreigners who entered Assam between January 1, 1961 and January 1, 1971 should be identified. The Government should settle such foreigners with their families in places outside Assam within a period not more than six months from the date of identification.

It should be guaranteed that these foreigners after their settlement outside Assam, shall not be allowed to return to the State. Any foreigners so settled outside Assam if found to have reentered the State should be expelled immediately.

To prevent their reentry, the provisions of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation 1977 (Regulation five) should be fully implemented forthwith.

The foreigners who entered Assam after the regulation was formulated should be detected and their names deleted from the electoral rolls. If already included such foreigners should be deported and pending their deportation they are to be arrested and interned in camps specially set up for the purpose.

Monitoring rights: The draft proposal says AASU and AAGSP should have full monitoring rights as to the implementation of the whole operation to the exclusion of all other individuals, groups and organisations.

The Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order 1963 issued by the Central Government in exercise of powers con-

ferred by Section 3 of the Foreigners Act 1946 read with Foreigners Law (Application and Amendment) Act 1962 should be strictly enforced with the provisions of the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order 1958.

These orders should be made applicable to all foreigners irrespective of their residences, date of entry and stay for any length of time.

The National Register of Citizens should be suitably updated.

The AASU and AAGSP will leave for demanded that harbouring of foreigners be made a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment and fine under Section 14 of the Foreigners Act 1946.

Before the two organisations call off their agitational programme, all kinds of "repressive measures" taken by the Government should be withdrawn.

Team leaves today: Six members of AASU and AAGSP will leave for New Delhi tomorrow to take part in the talks on the foreigners issue to be resumed with a team of Central officials, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Krishnaswami Rao Sahib.

The AASU team will consist of its president, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, general secretary, Mr. Bhriku Kumar Phukkan and adviser, Mr. Nagesh Sharma.

The AAGSP has decided to send Mr. Niboran Bora, Mr. Atul Bora and Mr. Giri Barua. — UNI.

28 - October - 1981

The Hindu.