

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
RAJYA SABHA  
QUESTION NO 523  
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2017**

[Repatriation of Chakmas from North East States](#)

523                      Shri Ronald Sapa Tlau

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether presence of Chakma populations in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram creates perennial problems for two States;
- (b) whether there is any plan to soon resume two failed Indo-Bangladesh dialogues (1992 and 1995) on repatriating Chakmas from North-East States and if so, the particulars thereof, if not, reasons therefor;
- (c) Government's detailed plan to solve the problems;
- (d) whether Government is pondering granting citizenship to foreigners based on religion, if so, particulars thereof;
- (e) whether it is constitutionally right to grant citizenship to foreigners purely on basis of religion; and
- (f) whether all stakeholders in North- East States have been consulted regarding granting citizenship to foreigners?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a to f): The presence of Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram is being resented by local population who hold them not to be original inhabitants of these States. While in Arunachal Pradesh their inclusion in electoral rolls and conferment of citizenship on them are being opposed, the Mizos are wary of the growth in Chakma population in Mizoram.

--2--

R.S.US.Q NO. 523 FOR 20.12.2017

There is no plan at present to resume Indo-Bangladesh dialogue on repatriating Chakmas from North-East States.

A Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 proposing amendment in the definition of 'illegal migrants' u/s 2(1)

(b), reducing the residency period from 11 to 6 years under the Third Schedule of Section 6 and giving enabling powers to the Government to cancel the OCI card of such persons who are found to have committed offences u/s 7D of the Citizenship Act, 1955 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19.07.2016 and has been referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Committee has held

meetings with stakeholders and have visited States of Gujarat and Rajasthan. The Bill intends to enable minority communities of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, viz. Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who entered India on or before 31.12.2014 due to religious persecution or fear of religious persecution to obtain Indian citizenship. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

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