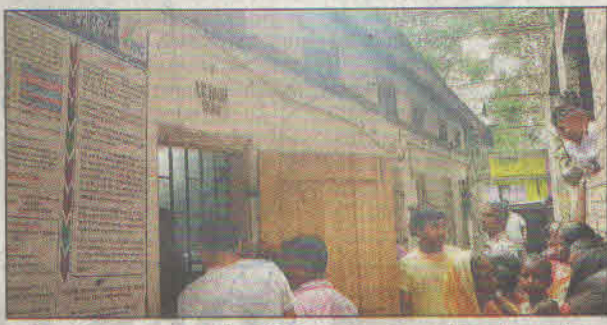


Telegraph-21/8/15

Receipt for forms, allege Dhubri villagers NRC norms flouted by seva kendra staff

BY SUMIR KARMAKAR

Sapatgram (Dhubri), Aug. 1: In the 2,500 seva kendras across Assam to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) 1951, people from the Sapatgram town queue up early in the morning to submit their documents but violation of norms by staff has left many frustrated.



People queue up at the NRC seva kendra at Sapatgram in Dhubri district. Picture by Sumir Karmakar ■ See Page 7

According to the norms announced for the ongoing NRC update, an applicant must be issued a receipt as soon as he or she submits the application after initial scrutiny of the prescribed documents. But the kendra staff are collecting the forms along with the documents without issuing any receipt.

Many who queued up today complained they were asked to come later to collect their receipts even though they are supposed to receive them the same day.

"I submitted my forms and documents yesterday but they did not give me any receipt. What if my documents are lost in the office and I don't have any proof about submission of the same? Then I will have to fill the forms again and stand in the long queue to submit it," one of the applicants, who walked to the kendra for the second time this week today, said.

"They (staff) asked me to come yesterday but they did not give me the receipt even though I waited for two hours here. I did not receive it even today," he said.

There are nearly 3,400 households in four wards under Sapatgram town committee in Dhubri district. About 1,850 people have submitted their applications for inclusion of their names in the NRC, being updated across Assam to detect illegal migrants.

When asked, Ashit Sarkar, an official of the kendra, said the two computers provided to them were not sufficient to scan and upload about 100 applications they were accepting daily.

"There is no chance of misplacement of the applications. We keep them in an almirah," he said.

But those who were waiting for receipts questioned why were they accepting 100 applications daily if the facilities provided were not sufficient. "They can accept applications according to their capacity. This will help people not waste their time waiting in the queue," said another applicant.

Jyotsna Rani Dey, a 50-year-old homemaker, appeared annoyed. "I came here at 8am and have been standing in the queue since (till 3pm). There is no place to sit and no drinking water either," she said.

NRC state co-ordinator Prateek Hajela, when asked by The Telegraph, said, "They are supposed to issue the receipt immediately. I will ask the Dhubri deputy commissioner to look into it."

Dhubri deputy commissioner Nazrul Islam said he has asked the centre to issue receipts immediately.

The seva kendras opened across Assam for NRC update have complained of insufficient computers resulting in slow progress of work. "At least two more computers and printers should be provided to the centres having over 3,000 applicants. The technical problems and slow Internet connection often affects our work. It takes a lot of time to scan the documents one by one and upload them," said a staff at the seva kendra.

Man held in fake certificate scam

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Kokrajhar, Aug. 1: Police today arrested a man from Kokrajhar district for issuing forged birth certificates to include names fraudulently in the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which is being updated in Assam.

The police said Zumar Ali, 27, was arrested from Ghoramara area in Kokrajhar and fake birth certificates recovered from his house.

The arrest came two days after Bharat Chandra Narah, press adviser to chief minister Tarun Gogoi, said the government would take action against such corrupt practices.

The police said one of certificates recovered was issued in the name of Akibul Islam of Bhadeyaguri village showing he was born on December 18, 2006, though it was found the person was a much older man.

Banita Das, the police officer investigating the case, said the arrest was made following an FIR lodged by Dr Nilu Kumar Brahma, health officer of Balagaon block health centre, on July 21 at Kokrajhar Sadar police station.

Das said Ali may have taken advantage of the ongoing NRC update and charged money to issue fake birth certificates. She said they have registered a case under Sections 471, 467 and 468 of IPC against Ali.

The Telegraph had reported yesterday that a primary health centre employee in Sonitpur district was involved in issuing fake birth certificates. The accused Yunush Ali used to forge the signature of the doctor assigned to issue approval for the document and finally issue the certificates. Ten fake birth certificates were recovered from his house. Yunush is absconding.