

# THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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## Blogs

### No orders to include names of Hindu Bengalis from Bangladesh in National register: State coordinator

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*By Bikash Singh, ET Bureau*

GUWAHATI: National register for citizens (NRC) state coordinator Prateek Hajela said that NRC office has not received any order pertaining to inclusion of the Hindu Bengali from Bangladesh in the ongoing updation of NRC in Assam.

The Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha proposes to make minority communities such as Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan eligible for applying for Indian citizenship.

Hajela said that NRC have not order for inclusion of names of Hindu Bengali post March 24, 1971. “NRC process is monitored by the Supreme Court directive and we are acting as per the Apex court’s guideline.”



*NDA Government recently tabled the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 making nationals of various countries including Bangladesh eligible for acquiring Indian citizenship.*

Under the 1985 Assam Accord between the central government and the All Assam Students Union, March 24, 1971 is the cutoff date for detection and deportation of foreigners.

Peasant organization Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) on Monday protested the NDA government's proposal of giving citizenship to Hindu Bengali from Bangladesh.

With process of NRC underway around 2.68.395 documents across the 28 states of India sent for verification.

NRC office in Guwahati has received results of verification of only 5029 cases from these states.

The NRC office has received 6.63 crore documents out of which 4.5 crore are already verified. Last time NRC was updated was in 1951.

Supreme court in its recent order has stated that updated NRC shall consist of names of all Indian citizens, including their children and descendants, who may have moved to the state of Assam subsequent to 24th March, 1971 would be eligible for inclusion in the NRC on adducing satisfactory proof of residence in any part of the country (outside Assam) as on 24th March, 1971.

NRC is updated based on the electoral rolls of 1971. NRC updation requires establishing linkages with forefathers who have been citizen of India.

Hajela said, "We have received over 68.23 applications for enrolment in NRC. There are three stages of verification which include physical verification of the applicants, office verification of the documents submitted and making of family tree which will detail the father and forefathers." He said that 97 per cent of physical verification is already completed. "The process of making the family tree has started. However for office verification of documents we have sent documents to at least 28 states. However the response is not very encouraging. We have requested the chief secretaries of those states to expedite the process."

In case of Bihar where 31, 380 documents are sent for verification not a single result has come yet. Tripura has given maximum response with 25, 008 documents sent, 1049 is verified.

NRC office has sent 64, 547 documents to West Bengal out of which results have come for only 30 cases, in case of Nagaland out of 49, 692 cases results have come for 542 cases.

For Meghalaya out of 34, 438 cases verification has been done for 493. In case of Arunachal Pradesh out of 33, 486 cases, results have come for 290 cases. In case of Delhi out of 3025 documents results have come for only four documents.

Himachal Pradesh has verified and sent back one document which it was sent similarly Chandigarh has verified two documents.

Hajela added that the government of India has sanctioned 288.18 crore for NRC process, only Rs 4 lakh remained unspent. “We have sought additional fund of Rs 504.82 crore to complete the process.”

Recently Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal apprised the Home Minister Rajnath Singh about the fund crunch that the NRC exercise is facing with and demanded financial assistance.

A Division Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Ronginton F Nariman while responding to the status report filed by Hajela, directed that the NRC work should be completed ‘as soon as possible’.

The draft NRC was scheduled to be published on January 1, 2016 and the final NRC on March 31, 2016. However it will take more time.

Hajela said, “We are doing the work speedily without compromising on the quality.”

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