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NRC of Assam : An analysis

Many people of Assam are disappointed that after such a massive NRC exercise, **only 19 lakhs** or so Foreigners are detected **from 329 lakhs applicants**. But for a correct perspective of the NRC process, we need to see the total picture embracing all the foreigners in Assam and not through the prism of 329 lakhs applicants and 19 lakhs detected from these applicants, as foreigners.

To understand the issue in depth, we first must check how many **eligible applicants for NRC** are there in Assam. As per the data as available in the Census of India 2011, Paper I of 2018 – Language, the population of the state based on **language** more or less matches the projected census population number of 339 lakhs in 2015.

In this context, if all eligible persons of Assam as per Language have applied, there is no room for any Foreigners to apply **within the context of 329 applicants**. But the growth rate of people of one language has increased very significantly since 1971, - there is about 28 lakhs excess growth. It can be presumed that about **30 lakhs or so illegal foreigners have applied through this slot within the framework of 329 lakhs of applicants in the NRC and hence, there is no scope for any large group of foreigners to ‘apply’ within the framework of 329 applicants**. If it had happened, the gap of 10 lakhs between the census population of Assam of 2015 of 339 lakhs and 329 lakhs of NRC applicants **would have been filled up**. Not only that, the number of applicants could have been anything upto 400 lakhs. Application of 329 lakhs applicants is something of a House Full situation in context of all the eligible applicants of Assam.

But as written above, 28 lakhs or so illegal foreigners probably have applied through a particular language slot, - we may even presume that some indigenous people may not have applied and that slot is also filled by illegal Foreigners. In this context, it may be logical to believe that out of the 329 applicants for NRC, 30 lakhs or so may be illegal foreigners, out of which 19 lakhs have been detected as illegal foreigners. If we assume that around 2 lakhs out of these 19 lakhs are indigenous people who may not have necessary papers etc., **then 17 lakhs or so are detected as illegal foreigners.** These are indicative numbers only.

From the above facts, it is clear that bulk of the illegal foreigners have not applied in the NRC process for fear of being detected.

How many illegal foreigners are in Assam?

No one probably knows with any degree of authority because there is no authentic data as to how many people from Bangladesh entered Assam due to atrocities by the East Pakistan army. Also, how many foreigners entered Assam's porous border every year for 50 years since 1971.

We may however arrive at a realistic figure through the fact that there was 41 lakhs "excess" voters in Assam's voters list in 2006 as per the petition of Aabhijeet Sharma in the Supreme Court in 2009, based on the Election Commission of India's electoral statistics. **The 'excess' voters over and above all India voter's growth rate has to be illegal Bangladeshi Foreigners. None of the respondents in the petition including EC contradicted this basic statement of the petition,** that there are 41 lakhs 'excess' voters in the Assam's voter's list, and we can presume them to be **illegal Bangladeshi Foreigners.**

Illegal Bangladeshi Foreigners as voters in 2006

in Assam

: 41 lakhs

It means, population of illegal Bangladeshi Foreigners in 2006 in Assam is 82 lakhs (50% of the populations are voters as a thumb rule method) 82 lakhs of illegal Bangladeshi Foreigners in 2006 in Assam, if projected to 2015 at a conservative growth rate of 25% decadal or 2.5% yearly becomes **100 lakhs**.

The population of Assam's illegal Bangladeshi

Foreigners in 2015

: 100 lakhs

A Times of India report of 26th July, 2018 has reported in its front page a news item where it is reported that **Central Agencies believe 1 crore(100 lakhs) people have not applied for inclusion in the NRC** which means that 100 lakhs illegal Bangladeshi Foreigners are there in Assam in 2015.

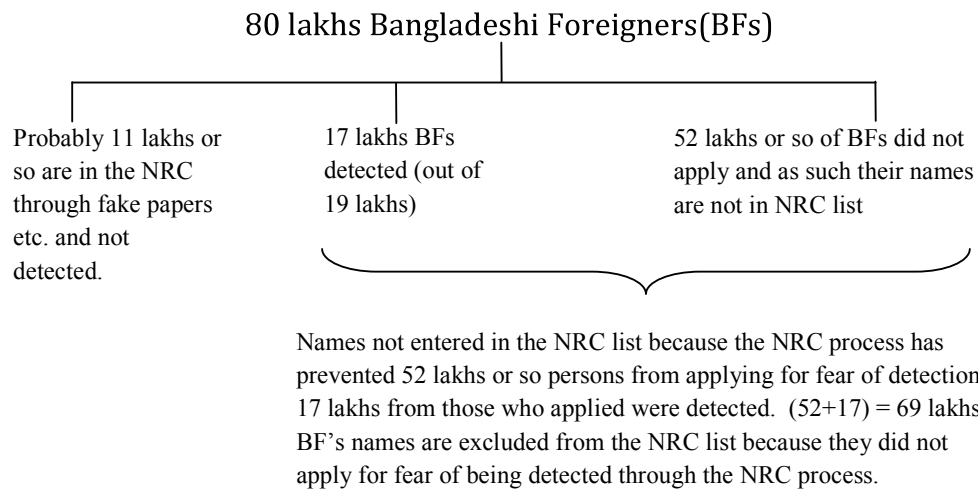
As per starred question No. 332 answered by the Union Minister of State, Sri Prakash Jaiswal in Parliament on July 14, 2004, it was stated in the Parliament as below :

Estimated number of illegal Bangladeshis in India as on 31/12/2003(State wise) Assam : 50,00,000 lakhs

If we project it at 25% decadal growth i.e. 2.5% annually then in 2015, illegal Bangladeshi population will be about 64 lakhs (say 65 lakhs) in Assam.

Based on the above analysis, we may safely assume that illegal Bangladeshi Foreigners in Assam may be anything between **65 lakhs to 100 lakhs**.

Assuming there are 80 lakh illegal Bangladeshis in Assam, how are they in the ambit of the NRC?



The above is an indicative assessment, which shows the broad picture of the NRC operations, - that lakhs of illegal Bangladeshis **did not apply in the NRC process for fear of detection and hence are excluded from the NRC list.**

The number of illegal Bangladeshi Foreigners in Assam can be anything, - 65 lakhs to 100 lakhs, **but whatever may be the number**, the majority of the illegal Bangladeshi Foreigners have not applied to be included in the NRC and hence their names are not in the NRC, **which is very good news for a correct NRC.**

Voter's List :

It is a well known fact that all illegal Bangladeshi Foreigners in Assam is enrolled in the voter's list. It is gospel Truth.

The NRC document must be the instrument to identify these foreigners in the voter's list of Assam. Names of voters which are not in the NRC document must be treated as doubtful citizens - D-Voters and their names must be deleted from the voter's list of Assam till their bonafide is established by Foreigner's Tribunals.

What needs to be done now:

The NRC list as published on 31st Aug19 as per direction of the Hon'ble SC should be declared as the final document now at the earliest but **with Operating Procedures fixed as per the directions of the Hon'ble SC. Some indigenous persons, whose names are rejected, must get the opportunity to be included in the NRC in a simple way.** Some Foreigners in the NRC list are to be investigated based on 'objections' and through re-verification process of some 'suspected areas'. **We need to realize that omissions and commission are only to be expected in operation of such a magnitude where 329 lakh people had to be verified and 1 % error means affecting nearly 3.0 lakh of people.**

But our priority must be to use the NRC document as an instrument to remove all the foreigners from the voter's list of Assam. As most Bangladeshi Foreigners have not applied in the NRC process for fear of detection and as such **their names are not included in the NRC list, - this is the golden opportunity** to purge the voter's list of Assam of most of the foreigners through the NRC. This will stop forever the insidious process of usurping the political power of the state by the foreigners, when one day one of them could be the CM of the state, as feared by Gen(ret'd) SK Sinha Ex Governor of Assam.

If we fritter away this opportunity through lack of 'pragmatism' which will delay the process or push it to cold storage,- the future of Assam will be doomed and our coming generations will not be secured.

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