

Regarding need to take action to stop reported incidents of violence and discrimination meted out to Bengali migrant workers in different parts of the country-laid

SHRI YUSUF PATHAN (BAHARAMPUR): I would like to highlight the increasing incidents of violence and discrimination being faced by Bengali speaking migrants across the country. Despite possessing valid identity documents, these workers are being branded as 'Bangladeshis' and arbitrarily arrested and pushed out of their homes and workplaces. The attempt to stigmatise the use of Bangla has come even from public authorities referring to Bangla as 'Bangladeshi national language'. Bangla is not just one of the 22 constitutionally recognised languages, but also a classical language - a status bestowed by the Union Government in 2024. This vile campaign against Bengali migrant workers have resulted in the repatriation of over 24,000 workers back to Bengal. Such hostility, hatred and harassment of migrant workers violate the fundamental rights to equality under Art. 14 and prohibition of discrimination under Art. 15. Further, it goes against the constitutional guarantee of freedom of movement under Art. 19(1)(d), the right to reside and settle anywhere in the country under Art. 19(1)(e) and the right to livelihood under Art. 21. Hence, I request the Government to urgently intervene to stop this profiling and discrimination against Bengali migrant workers.