

Clarification on Original Inhabitant



NOTICE

Certain misgivings seem to have been developing amongst some persons about the provision of “Original Inhabitant” identification under NRC updation. In this regard it is reiterated that the process of updating of NRC, Assam is being carried out on the basis of transparent modalities and statutory provisions, particularly, “The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003”. Provisions of Clause 3(3) of Schedule framed under the said Rules provide that *“The names of persons who are originally inhabitants of the State of Assam and their children and descendants, who are Citizens of India, shall be included in the consolidated list if the citizenship of such persons is ascertained beyond reasonable doubt and to the satisfaction of the registering authority”*. As the law provides for the Original Inhabitants to be included in NRC, this provision is being implemented to ensure that no Original Inhabitant is deprived of this legal protection and is excluded from NRC due to unavailability of document or any such reason. Original Inhabitant is not a special status so far as the updation of NRC is concerned and doesn’t give out any preferential or differential treatment to any NRC applicant. It may be noted that no genuine Indian citizen shall be left out from the updated NRC irrespective of his/her religion, caste or community, language or region. All persons whose names appear in the updated NRC shall have all rights available to citizens and all such persons shall be treated equally without any hierarchical categorisation irrespective of whether they enter the updated NRC by virtue of documentary evidence or by being marked as Original Inhabitants. **In the draft and final NRC to be published, nobody will be shown as Original Inhabitant or otherwise and will be identified in only one category, which is citizenship.** As such, the public is requested not to have any unnecessary misgiving and insecurity that Original Inhabitant category persons would have any additional privileges as compared to those persons who enter the updated NRC through documentary evidence. It is also to be noted that some persons who are identified as Original Inhabitants by registering authority to his/her satisfaction have also provided all required documents for claiming inclusion in NRC. As such the public is requested to note that the Original Inhabitant determination is undertaken only to ensure inclusion of all genuine persons in NRC, which is done meticulously in adherence of law and will be finalized only after adequate vetting.

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