APPENDIX – B

RECOMMENDATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY LT GEN (RETD) S K SINHA, PVSM GOVERNOR OF ASSAM ON THE REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA ON ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN ASSAM DATED 08 NOV 1998

(REFERS TO CHAPTER III - REASONS FOR INSURGENCY PAGE NO 131 OF THE THESIS)

1. Awareness should be promoted about illegal migration into Assam being not only a threat to the identity of the Assamese people but what is more, being a grave threat to our national security.

2. Border fencing in Assam should be completed on a war footing. Observation towers and lighting should be provided on the same scale as in Punjab.

3. BSF battalions deployed in Assam should not be given responsibility to hold unduly extended frontages. As in the case of Punjab, BSF battalions should hold a frontage of 30 km. Additional BSF battalions should be provided for this purpose.

4. Diversion of BSF battalions from the border in Assam for other tasks, when the battle against infiltrators is on, must be scrupulously avoided.

5. All country boats, plying in the river near the border should be registered and their registration numbers marked on them.

6. Medium crafts for floating BOPs with adequate speed boats for the riverine sector should be made available as early as possible.
7. Multi-purpose photo identity cards should be provided to all our nationals. Districts bordering Bangladesh should be accorded higher priority.

8. Effective arrangements should be made for registration of births and deaths.

9. The National Register of Citizens should be updated and computerised. A separate register of Stateless citizens should also be maintained.

10. Vacant chars in the river should be handed over to the Forest Department and trees planted on them.

11. As far as possible, we should assist in the process of economic development in Bangladesh. Socio-economic programmes designed to improve the lot of women should be given priority due to its multiple beneficiary spins off – improving the family’s income, women education, curbing population growth and educated women becoming a bulwark against the spread of Islamic fundamentalism.

12. Hindu illegal migrants who have infiltrated after 24 March 1971 should not be given refugee status. They should be treated as illegal migrants.

13. While maximum effort must be made to stem the ingress of illegal migrants, those who have already infiltrated after 24 March 1971 to date, may not be deported.

14. The IM(DT) Act should be repealed and replaced by a new legislation which should provide for detection for illegal migrants in just, fair and expeditious manner, with due judicial sanctity accorded to the process. Those identified as illegal migrants should be allowed to stay in the country as Stateless citizens with no voting right nor the right to acquire immovable property.
15. Survey teams working under Magistrates on deputation from other States assisted by policemen of Border Organisation, should identify illegal migrants in a fixed time frame of short duration. Those identified as foreigners by these teams should be given the right of appeal to tribunals set up under Foreigners Act.