

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Issue regarding plight of farmers who are residing on the Indo-Pak borders in Punjab.

श्री गुरजीत सिंह औजला (अमृतसर): Thank you, Sir. I want to draw your attention towards the plight of farmers who are residing on the Indo-Pak border in Punjab. In Punjab, Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Ferozepur, Tarn Taran, Amritsar etc. share 438 kms. of border with Pakistan. Barbed wire fencing of the entire border area has been done.

Sir, the agricultural land of these farmers lies beyond the barbed wire fence and they cannot farm there. Gates have been installed there and farmers get hardly 4 or 5 hours to do the farming. The government has accepted giving Rs.10,000/- per acre, per year to the farmers. Even this compensation amount is not given in a timely manner. When I was elected an MP in 2017, that time, I found out that compensation amount had not been granted to the farmers from 2017 to 2017. After repeated pursuit and reminders, this compensation amount was granted to them. However, the compensation due to the farmers have not been paid till now from 2017 to 2022. This backlog amount is pending. Only one installment has been paid. Four installments of compensation amount is yet to be paid. Sir, in Amritsar district, in Tehsil Ajnala, Lopoke and Attari, over 380 hectares of such land falls outside the barbed wire fence. A sum of Rs.3,38,12,401/- is yet to be paid to these hapless farmers as compensation. This is the amount to be paid for one installment. Five such installments are yet to be paid to the farmers. Sir, during war with Pakistan, these farmers 'help you' counter the enemy...

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Don't call it 'you help'. Call it 'our help'. The farmers are Indians.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA: O.K. Sir. I am sorry. The farmers provide us help. When India was balkanised and Pakistan created, the border area farmers suffered the most. Sir, the compensation of our farmers must be granted to them. Delays should not be there. These are small and marginalised farmers who have only 2 or 4 or 5 acres of land, They are not rich farmers.

So, I urge upon the government to release the 4 installments of compensation amount to the farmers of Punjab, especially to farmers of my area.

Thanks.