

Regarding alleged incidents of harassment meted out to civilians by BSF jawans in Shasthitala village of Mithipur Panchayat, Murshidabad, West Bengal.-laid

SHRI KHALILUR RAHAMAN (JANGIPUR): Recently, five BSF jawans of 115th Battalion entered the village of Shasthitala in Mithipur Panchayat of Murshidabad and brutally lathicharged about 50 innocent villagers. Among the injured are pregnant women and ordinary housewives. Locals allege that women were abused with foul language and physically assaulted. This does not end here. Fishermen are being prevented from fishing in the river, and farmers are being prevented from working in their fields by the BSF. They are being forcibly taken to camps and forced to work without pay, even opening shops or going out after evening has been declared illegal. In some other parts of the country, migrant Bengalis are being harassed and being called "non-Indians". At the border, the torture is being carried out by those who are supposed to provide security to people. I strongly demand that the Central Government to immediately form a high-level, impartial and independent investigation; and the culprits should be identified quickly and the strictest legal punishment should be ensured. And above all, the Home Minister should clarify his position in the wake of this incident. The people of West Bengal are the children of this country, the citizens of this country. Our Constitution dictates that they be treated equally, not with contempt or suspicion. This is what 21st-century India demands as well.