

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:287
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000
CULTIVATION IN BORDER AREAS
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers are facing difficulties in cultivating their lands on the Indo-Pak borders;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for mitigating the problems of people living in international border areas of the country particularly in Punjab;
- (d) whether the Government propose to provide compensation for the loss suffered by such farmers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH.VIDYASAGAR RAO)

- (a)&(b) : Government is aware of the problems faced by the Punjab farmers who have their lands beyond the border fencing on the Indo-Pak border. These difficulties include restriction on sowing of tall crops like Sugarcane, Bazra, Maize etc., restriction on timings of opening and closing of security gates etc.
- (c): There are standing instructions to the BSF to ensure that gates in the border fencing are opened twice at sun-rise and at sun-set to allow the farmers as much time as possible for attending to their cultivation. BSF authorities also hold meetings with the representatives of farmers and the civil administration with a view to minimise the farmers` hardships on account of security fencing.
- (d)&(e): The planning Commission, Government of India, had released a special grant of approximately Rs.7.00 crores to the State Government of Punjab during 1999-2000 for paying compensation to the farmers having their lands beyond the border fencing in order to mitigate their difficulties.