

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:532
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2005
FIRING ON INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bangladesh rifles resorted to firing on Indian forces on Indo-Bangladesh border when fencing work was being done;
- (b) if so, the details of the incidents of firing on Indian forces during each of the last three years;
- (c) the number of security personnel/civilian killed/injured in such incidents during the said period;
- (d) whether fencing work has been suspended after such firing; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to restart the fencing work?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIS. REGUPATHY)

(a)to(c): The Bangladesh Rifles resorted to firing on ten occasions during the year 2005 while objecting to the erection of border fencing within 150 yards of IB. However no incident of firing relating to construction of fencing took place during the last three years. No casualty of BSF personnel/civilian has been reported in such incidents during 2002, 2003 and 2004.

(d)&(e): The construction of fencing in areas falling within 150 yards of the IB has been temporarily suspended, while in other areas fence work is continuing. The Government of India has taken up this issue with the Government of Bangladesh through diplomatic channel and discussed the matter at various meeting held at various levels including Home Secretary level talks, DG, BSF and DG, BDR level talks and Flag meetings at Commander levels etc. In these meetings, Government of India have explained that fencing is not a structure having defence potential but would be beneficial for both the countries in curbing infiltration and other cross border illegal activities.