

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:267

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009

BORDER PATROLLING

Chakravarty Smt. Bijoya;Deka Shri Ramen

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the geographically rough terrain along the Indo-Bangladesh border including riverine areas and presence of Bangladeshi enclaves in Indian territories makes border patrolling very difficult;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure effective border patrolling and security;
- (c) whether the Border Security Force (BSF) has submitted any proposal for a new type of fencing along Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.267 FOR 08-12-2009 REGARDING "BORDER PATROLLING"

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. A significant portion of Indo-Bangladesh border is characterized by rough terrain, low-lying areas, hilly and forest land. Of the total stretch of 4096.7 km of the international border with Bangladesh about 1116 km is riverine. Besides, there are 51 enclaves of Bangladesh (area – 7110 acres) in the Indian territory. The Border is also heavily populated and the cultivation in several areas is being carried out till the zero line. As such, the task of border patrolling by the Border Security Force (the designated border guarding force) is both challenging and difficult.

For effective domination of the borders and to meet security imperatives, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which, inter-alia, includes:-

- (i) Round the clock surveillance and patrolling both on the land and water borders. The domination of riverine borders is being done through water crafts and floating Border Out Posts;
- (ii) Establishment of observation posts;
- (iii) Construction of border fencing and flood lighting;
- (iv) Introduction of modern and hi-tech surveillance equipments;
- (v) Establishment of additional Border Out Posts along borders to reduce inter-se distance;
- (vi) Up-gradation of intelligence set up; and
- (vii) Appropriate co-ordination with the concerned State Governments and the intelligence agencies;

(c) to (e): Based on the experience of patrolling by border guarding forces on international borders, the earlier design of single row barbed wire fence has been modified with the new upgraded composite type design with raised platform and concertina coil. Technical modifications to suit the local conditions are also adopted in specific cases.