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Title: Problems being faced by the people of Karimganj, Assam due to barbed wire fencing in the urban area.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (KARIMGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to raise a very serious problem which has cropped up with the proposed barbed wire fencing in Karimganj Town in my constituency. Barbed wire fencing is being constructed at 13 metres from the bank of the river Kushiara in Karimganj Town of my constituency. The area where the fencing is going to be constructed now is very thickly populated and about a 2 km. stretch has a wholesale market area on the bank of the river. The construction of fencing requires shifting of the market but it is not possible, on the other hand it is also not possible to have one portion of the market outside the fencing. So the fencing should be constructed saving the market along the river bank which is 200 years old. The situation is getting to boiling point as thousands of people living in this area are afraid of being displaced. The people who would be outside the barbed wire fencing will feel insecure since they would lose the freedom of movement as they would be permitted to cross the fencing only at some specified time and there would be no development works undertaken by the Government for that area.

Now, if the proposed barbed wire fencing is constructed without considering the above factors, then not only the victims but also the sympathizers in large numbers, led by different political parties, are going to stage hunger strike until death. In view of the genuine demand and the plight of the people, the general public in Barak Valley are unhappy and a condition of a severe unrest is booming up.

I, therefore, urge the Government to construct the barbed wire fencing without displacing the persons living in the urban market area, and in other areas if displacement is required, the arrangement for proper rehabilitation before construction of the fencing should be made. Otherwise, there will be tremendous opposition from the common people and political parties.

Sir, barbed wire fencing is required to prevent infiltration. This is urban area; this is not the point of infiltration. Infiltration takes place where there is no natural barrier and in jungle area where the barbed wire is broken and in the area where there is no barbed wire. This is urban area and there is 24 hour vigilance of BSF. It is rather a convenient terrain for keeping vigilance. So, I would request the Government to modify the specification of fencing and the line of fencing so that the market area is saved properly.