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Title: Need to provide relief and compensation to farmers whose land has been utilized for fencing the border in Rajasthan, particularly in Barmer Parliamentary Constituency.

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, after India-Pakistan partition following freedom of the country, the boundary was demarcated by erecting pillars. Therefore, in the year 1994-95 onwards, keeping in view, the security considerations, the Government of India installed barbed wire fencing at a distance of 150 yards, e.g., 450 feet away from the pillars on the Indian border. After the partition in the year 1947 and till the fencing in the year 1994-95, the concerned land owner peasants were cultivating their lands. As per the need of land for fencing, the Ministry of Defence, Government of India and Revenue Department acquired the requisite land. The peasants of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh in Rajasthan, who were vigilant and literate, were able to get the right of passage at a distance of every three to four kilometers for cultivating their lands with the permission of the Army and the Administration. However the peasants of Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts who were illiterate, did not take any initiative to get the right to cultivate their ancestral lands.

When the farmers became alive to their hardships, they approached all concerned in the State Government, Home Ministry of the Government of India, BSF, etc., through letters as well as personal meetings but unfortunately, they did not get justice. In this connection, I would especially draw your kind attention to several families, whose entire ancestral lands have been utilized for fencing. Having failed to get justice, at last, after 20 years, 10 peasants approached the hon. High Court. While terming the demand of the farmers as justifiable, it gave its judgment on 28.01.2013 stating that the Home Ministry of the Government of India, Revenue Department of Rajasthan Government and BSF to take decision on the demand of the farmers within two months. However even after the lapse of about two years, no action has been taken in this regard. The peasants also protested during this period.

Sir, I submit the demands of those peasants whose lands fall between the pillars and the fencing as under:

- (a) They should be provided passage/gates at a distance of one kilometer each to cultivate their lands like the permission granted to the farmers of Hanumangarh and Ganganagar; or
- (b) They should be given alternative land in the same revenue village/nearer village; or
- (c) They should be given compensation on market rate.

Sir, therefore, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister through your good offices to allow the affected farmers to cultivate their lands who have been deprived of their sole source of income for the last 20 years.

Thank you.