

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3848
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2004
INDIAN ENCLAVES
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Enclaves of India falling in Bangladesh's territory and Bangladesh's Enclaves falling in India's territory alongwith population of each of such enclaves;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the people living in enclaves of India falling in Bangladesh territory are facing a lot of problems and hardships due to lack of corridor facilities;
- (c) if so, the steps the Government is taking to give corridor facilities to all these enclaves;
- (d) whether the Government has taken up the matter with Bangladesh Government for transfer of these enclaves;
- (e) if so, the details and progress made so far in this regard;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether the Government had given corridor for some enclaves of Bangladesh falling in the Indian territory; and
- (h) if so, the number of such enclaves and under which pact they have been given such facility?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.REGHUPATHY)

(a) to (h): There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh territory and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in Indian territory. Presently, there is no reliable estimate of the population in enclaves in India and Bangladesh.

In order to address various problems of people living in Enclaves of India falling in Bangladesh territory the Government have set-up two Joint Boundary Working Groups which would address the pending matter relating to the Land Boundary Agreement, 1974. Both the countries have agreed that the Joint Boundary Working Groups should complete their work and submit final reports to their respective Governments. However, only two meetings of the Groups have taken place on 2-4th July, 2001 in Dhaka and 26-27th March, 2002 in New Delhi.

The Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Demarcation Agreement signed on 16th May, 1974 provides that India shall lease out in perpetuity a corridor measuring approximately 178 metres X 85 metres near Tin Bigha to Bangladesh Government to provide access to an from Bangladesh territory in the Dahargram Enclave.

However, it was mutually agreed in 1992 that Tin Bigha corridor for access to the Angarpota and Dahargram enclaves of Bangladesh falling in Indian territory will be opened for Bangladeshi nationals during alternate daylight hours. Since July, 2001, Bangladeshi nationals have been provided unhindered access during day time. However, Bangladesh Government continues to demand 24 hours access.