

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3985
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2004
FENCING ON BANGLADESH BORDER
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria followed for fencing at Zero Point India-Bangladesh Border;
- (b) whether the criteria in some places has been violated;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time when gates at Zero point on Indo-Bangladesh Border open in a day;
- (e) whether the local residents are facing hardship due to limited timings; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): As per 1975 Joint India-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities, no construction of defensive structure can be constructed within 150 yards from the zero line. Fencing is being constructed at a distance of 150 yards or beyond from the international border as the Bangladesh Government has been objecting to the construction of fencing within 150 yards. Wherever there are villages and houses falling within the fencing line, gates have been provided at convenient places to facilitate easy movements of residents. The timings for the opening and closing of gates are determined after discussion with local villagers as well as with local administration. However, the gates are kept open during the day time. In case of emergency, there are standing instructions to open the gate by the BSF sentry to facilitate easy movement across the fencing.

Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for management of the gates has been formulated in consultation with the local population/villagers and so far no complaints/problems have been raised by any villager.