

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2473
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2006
PHOTO IDENTITY CARD TO FARMERS
Hossain Shri Abdul Mannan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers, fishermen in the Indo-Bangladesh Borders areas in West Bengal are facing difficulties due to harassment by BSF;
- (b) if so, whether these farmers and fishermen do not have Photo Identity Card, which is required to cultivate in char land and fishing in border areas;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to issue Photo Identity Cards to all genuine farmers and fishermen of Indo-Bangladesh Border areas in West Bengal;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the time by which the work of issuing Photo Identity Card is likely to be started?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : No Sir. No farmer or fishermen are being harassed by the BSF on the Indo-Bangladesh Border. However, BSF imposes certain restrictions on the movement of local population in the close vicinity of the International Border to check the activities of fundamentalist/anti-national elements. The BSF allows only such fishermen and farmers to go to the riverine areas/char land for fishing/cultivation who possess Photo Identity Cards issued by the State Administration.

(c) to (e) : Presently the Central Government has no proposal to issue Photo Identity Cards to farmers/fishermen in the border areas