

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:744
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010
DIFFICULTIES FACED BY FARMERS IN BORDER AREAS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers are facing difficulties in cultivating their lands around the fencing on the Indo-Pak border;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the problem being faced by such farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (c): A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 744 FOR 02-03-2010

(a) to (c): It has been reported that farmers are facing certain difficulties in cultivating their lands around the fencing on the Indo-Pak border. These difficulties mainly relate to opening of gates, issue of identity cards, frisking of women farmers, growing of high – rise crops etc.

Steps taken by the Government to resolve the problems being faced by farmers are as below:-

- (i) The fence gates manned by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel are opened from 0700 hours to 1730 hours in summer season and from 0800 hours to 1630 hours in winter season on all days.
- (ii) Identity cards are issued to the regular farmers/labourers by the Unit Commander of BSF after due verification.
- (iii) BSF have recruited 663 Mahila constables who are deployed, inter alia, for the purpose of frisking of women farmers who go for agricultural operation ahead of fencing.
- (iv) Cultivation of crops having not more than four feet height are allowed in the area between the international border and the fence.
- (v) Periodical meetings are organized in the respective villages by the District Administration, with the village Pradhan, local representatives of the farmers and the Unit Commander of BSF, for redressal of public grievances from time to time.