

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:808

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010

LAND PURCHASE ON INDO-PAK BORDER

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a private company has purchased vast tract of desert land in the Barmer district of Rajasthan, close to the Indo-Pakistan border;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has looked into the matter in terms of security considerations; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.808 FOR 02-3-2010 REGARDING LAND PURCHASE ON INDO-PAK BORDER.

(a) to (d): As per the available information, large scale purchase of land in the border areas of Rajasthan, particularly Barmer district has taken place. An estimated over 209891 bighas of land has been sold in Barmer district in the name of about 6,579 individuals over a period of five years prior to the year 2008. Several pieces of these lands reportedly come within the areas notified under provisions of Criminal Law (Amendment Act 1961).

Out of 6579 purchasers, 263 were found during enquiries to be from outside the State (buying 23748 bighas), 434 from Rajasthan but from outside Barmer district (buying 27767 bighas) and remaining 5882 persons from Barmer district itself but belonging to outside the notified areas (buying 158376 bighas).

Out of the above purchases, a company namely Pearl Agrotech Corporation Ltd. (PACL) has purchased 20311 acres of land in 681 deals which are mainly located in Sheo and Chohtan police station limits falling under notified areas.

Being land transactions, this matter was referred to the State Government of Rajasthan for detailed inquiry and suitable administrative and legal action under the appropriate State law. The State Government has conducted the inquiry and has taken corrective steps.

In the initial inquiry, no security considerations are reported to be involved. However, the matter has been recommended by the State Government for a detailed inquiry by the CBI. The proposal of the State Government is under consideration in Vigilance Wing of Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T), Government of India.