GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HOME AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6263
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010
INTER-STATE BORDER DISPUTES
Gohain Shri Rajen;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Ray Shri Rudramadhab ;Singh Shri Uday Pratap;Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several States in the country are embroiled in inter-State border disputes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the names of such States, including Assam and Meghalaya;
- (c) the number of demonstrations and agitations held in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) the role of the Union Government in resolving the inter-State border disputes in the country;
- (e) whether the Government has constituted any committee or task force to resolve such disputes; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the committee or task force are likely to submit their report?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) to (f): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No 6263 REGARDING "INTER-STATE BORDER DISPUTES" FOR ANSWER ON 04.05.2010.

(a) & (b): Assam- Meghalaya

The Central Government has advised both the State Governments to settle the dispute amicably. Meetings have been held at the level of Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of the States.

Assam-Nagaland

The Government of Assam had filed an Original Suit in the Supreme Court of India under Article 131 of the Constitution for demarcation of its boundaries on the ground. The Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 25.9.2006 has appointed a Local Commission for identification of boundaries of the States of Assam - Nagaland. The Local Commission is continuing its hearings.

Assam- Arunachal Pradesh

The Government of Assam has filed an Original Suit in the Supreme Court of India under Article 131 of the Constitution for demarcation of its boundaries on the ground. The Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 25.9.2006 has appointed a Local Commission for identification of the boundaries of Assam – Arunachal Pradesh. The Local Commission is continuing its hearings.

Assam- Mizoram

The Government of Mizoram has requested the Central Government to constitute a separate Boundary Commission to resolve the Assam-Mizoram boundary dispute. The Central Government has sought comments of State Government of Assam in this regard. The Government of Assam has been taking the position that inter-State border dispute between Assam and Mizoram should be settled by enforcing the Constitutional boundaries of the State and at present, it does not favour the constitution of a separate boundary Commission to determine the Assam-Mizoram inter-State boundary. Setting up of such a Commission is likely to entail hearings over a prolonged period. The Government of Assam will take a final view of the matter after the local Commission constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to settle the boundary dispute in respect of Assam-Arunachal Pradesh and Assam-Nagaland submit its report.

Maharashtra - Karnataka - Kerala;

The boundary dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra relates to the claim of Karnataka for the transfer of contiguous Kannadaspeaking areas in Maharashtra to Karnataka and the claim of Maharashtra for transfer of Marathi-speaking areas in Karnataka to Maharashtra.Karnataka has also claimed the Taluka of Kasargod in Kerala. The dispute is persisting from 1956. Kerala had not accepted the claim of Karnataka. The Governments of Maharashtra and Karnataka have taken opposite stands on the recommendations of the Mahajan Commission, which has been constituted by the Union Government with a view to settle the boundary dispute.

Punjab - Haryana

The dispute between Punjab and Haryana from 1966 pertains to the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and part of Fazilka Tehsil of Punjab to Haryana.

Andhra Pradesh- Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

As per available information, the State of Andhra Pradesh has boundary disputes with Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. None of these State Governments have approached the Central Government to resolve their boundary disputes.

Orissa- Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal

The State of Orissa, as per available information, has boundary disputes with Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. None of these State Governments have approached the Central Government to resolve their boundary disputes.

Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

As per available information, there are boundary disputes between Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. However neither of the State Governments has approached the Central Government to resolve their boundary disputes.

- (c): Data of this nature is not maintained Centrally.
- (d) to (f): The approach of the Central Government has consistently been that inter State boundary disputes can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned and that the Central Government works only as a facilitator for amicable settlement of the dispute in a spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding. The Central Government had constituted the Mahajan Commission in October 1966 to resolve the Maharashtra-Karnataka-Kerala boundary dispute. Three Commissions have so far been appointed to determine the areas of Punjab that should go to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh. Government of India has made efforts in the past to resolve the boundary dispute between Assam and Nagaland, but these efforts were in vain.