GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HOME AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:716 ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012 OBJECTION OVER FENCING Semmalai Shri S.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Mizoram has objected to the BSF's proposal to fence the border and set up border check points on the Indo-Bangladesh Border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) The State Government of Mizoram has not objected to the construction of fence, road and composite Border Out Posts (BOPs) on Indo-Bangladesh Border. Out of sanctioned length of 349.33 Km. for border fencing, work to the extent of 208.27 Km. has been completed and the balance work is in progress. However, the State Board for Wild Life of Mizoram has objected the proposal for construction of fencing, road and 07 BOPs in 56.53 Km., which falls under Dampa Tiger Reserve (DTR) forest area on Indo-Bangladesh Border.

(b): The proposal for construction of fencing, patrol road and 07 composite BOPs along the DTR has already been permitted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court subject to clearance from Standing Committee of National Board of Wild Life(NBWL). Based on the recommendations of the NBWL, a detailed survey was conducted by BSF along with officials from State Revenue Department, Wild Life and construction agencies on 1.12.2011 and on subsequent dates. The Survey Team had recommended diversion of approximately 1519.17 Hectare of land for construction of fence, road and 07 BOPs. However, State Board for Wild Life have objected to the proposal on the following grounds:-

(i) Fencing will restrict movement of wild animals to and fro Bangladesh.

(ii) Construction of road and fencing disturbs the sanctity of the lone Tiger Reserve of the State.

(iii) Construction of 07 BOPs (with about 33 security personnel in each) inside fencing will significantly undermine the security and habitat of wild animals.

(iv) There is no concrete and reliable report on movement of insurgents/illegal immigrants from Bangladesh through this land stretch within Dampa Tiger Reserve.

(c): The proposal of the State Board for Wild Life of Mizoram was discussed during the 26th meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL on 31.10.2012 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister of State(Independent Charge) for Environment and Forest and after deliberations, the agenda was deferred for further evaluation as the project is required to be undertaken to address the issue of national security and protection of wild life.