

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:144  
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009  
FENCING AT ZERO POINT  
Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the criteria followed for fencing at Zero Point on the Indo-Bangladesh border;
- (b) whether the criteria has been violated at some places;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time limit for opening of gates at Zero Point at the said border;
- (e) whether the local residents are facing hardships due to the limited timings; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 144 FOR ANSWER ON 14-07-2009.

(a) to (c): As per the Joint Indo-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities-1975, agreed between the two countries, no "defensive works" structure can be taken up within 150 yards from the zero line. Therefore, as a general principle, fencing is constructed at a distance of 150 yards or beyond from the International border. However, deviation from this guideline often becomes necessary due to ground level compulsions like existence of population, terrain including riverine tracts, etc.

(d) to (f): The timing for the opening and closing of gates is normally sunrise to sunset. However, in some cases timings are decided by BSF in consultation with the local Panchayats, MLAs/ MPs of the area and according to the change of season. During harvesting season and for other emergency requirements, gates are opened even beyond the normal time.

Every efforts is made at ground level to reconcile public requirement with security imperatives through a process of consultation. Periodic meetings are held at field level and the district level for redressal of public grievances.