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Title: Need to address the problems of farmers carrying out cultivation in the Indo-Pak border districts of Punjab.-Laid.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU (AMRITSAR): Punjab has 553 kilometre Indo-Pak border spread over three districts, i.e. Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozpur. In order to check the increased traffic of infiltrators, the work of fencing and lighting of the border was undertaken in 1988. It created lot of problems and hardships for people residing along the border, especially those owning land across the fence. Residents of fencing affected areas suffer economic hardships and face lack of infrastructure, industrial growth and employment. The fence is 1 kilometre beyond the border at some places and a little more or less at other points. The fence has created lot of problems for framers. In many cases, the land has been divided into two parts, rendering the portion across the fence into an uneconomic holding. The cultivators have to waste a lot of time to go across the fence into an uneconomic holding. The cultivators have to waste a lot of time to go across the fence to cultivate land and Border Security Police personnel also create lot of problems to farmers. Apart from this, women are not allowed to work in their own land, as the BSF has no lady staff for their checking and frisking. Even their hired labourers are also not allowed to go. I also draw your kind attention towards supply of power across the fence is erratic. They are not allowed to grow tall crops like sugarcane due to security reasons. The working hours are also fixed.

Through you, Sir, I would like to request the Government to look into the matter and give suitable compensation to the affected farmers.