

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding problems of farmers residing along border areas.

*SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA (AMRITSAR): I thank you, Hon. Madam Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to speak on an important issue.

Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the miserable condition of farmers and labourers who work in the fields adjacent to the barbed-wire fence on the Indo-Pak border. Six districts of Punjab fall in the border-belt. The border extends to approx. 465 kms and about 17,000 acres of land of India lies beyond the barbed wire fence installed at the border.

Madam, in Amritsar Parliamentary Constituency, three assembly segments of Rajasansi, Attari and Ajnala are there. Four small towns of Attari, Lopoke-Chowgawan, Ajnala and Ramdas fall in this belt. Much of their cultivable land falls beyond the barbed-wire fence at the Indo-Pak border. By mistake, the barbed-wire fence has also taken in its fold the extra one km area of village Kakkad and its 2000 acres of cultivable land. Punjab Government's Agriculture Seed Farm has also come within its fold. This entire 2000 acres of land has fallen beyond the barbed-wire fence. This area falls within the pillar number 95 (5-S) and pillar number 95 (7-G). 5 gates of BSF are over there – 89,90,91,91-A, 92. The BSF strictly monitors the entire area as per security requirements. Smuggling and drug-peddling has to be taken care of.

Madam, the farmers are facing a lot of hardships at the border in this area. Due to the wrongly put barbed-wire fence in this area, 2000 acres of cultivable village land has fallen beyond the barbed-wire fence. This anomaly needs to be rectified so that this 2000 acres of land can be reclaimed by the bonafide farmers.

Madam, a non-metalled road runs along the barbed-wire fence and is patrolled by the BSF. In Rajasthan, the entire road along the barbed-wire fence has been metalled. However, in Punjab, the case is opposite. River Ravi runs along the Indo-Pak border. There is no strong bridge in the area to cross this river. Land of Indian farmers also falls on the other side of Ravi. Some small bridges belong to the army, but they are in a dilapidated condition. The army does not allow these small bridges to be repaired.

Hon. Madam Speaker, I urge upon the Government to get repaired these small bridges. The road running along the barbed-wire fence should be made metalled. Also, the 2000 acres of cultivable land of Indian farmers that has fallen beyond the barbed-wire fence, should be brought to this side of barbed-wire fence. The position of the barbed wire fence must be rectified for this purpose. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla.