

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 20, 1988/Chaitra 31,  
1910 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

#### People Affected Due to Barbed Wire Fencing and Border Road

\*735. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who will be affected by the proposed border roads and the barbed wire fencing near the Indo-Bangla border particularly in Dhubri district of Assam;

(b) the steps taken for their resettlement; and

(c) the funds allocated for payment of compensation to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) As per available information 1279 families have been affected so far in Dhubri district of Assam.

(b) and (c). Resettlement of the people affected on alternative sites is the concern of the State Government. However, the scheme for construction of border road and fence includes a provision for payment of compensation to the people affected. Rs. 56,811,330.55p have so far been provided for this purpose.

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: The hon. Minister has stated in his statement that 1279 families will be affected by the proposed border roads along the Indo-Bangladesh border. Regarding settlement of the affected people, the hon. Minister has stated that it is the concern of the State Government. As far as my knowledge goes, the State Government has not taken any action for resettlement. Regarding compensation, a large amount has been stated by the hon. Minister to have been allotted, but the minimum compensation paid to the affected people has been below the market rate. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government will take strong action and ask the State Government about resettlement of the affected people and also about payment of adequate compensation as per the market rate. Also victimisation of the people should be minimised by changing the alignment of the road cum barbed wire fencing along the Indo Bangladesh border particularly in Dhubri district of Assam.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want?

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: To minimise the victimisation of the the people, the present

alignment should be changed—because there is a sufficient scope to minimise the victimisation of the people.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: The hon. Member has raised a very valid problem which is faced by those people who are displaced. For the information of the House and of the hon. Member, we have instructed the State Government: in order to avoid undue hardship to the people living in the areas affected by construction of roads, the Government of Assam has been requested to evolve a proper procedure requiring conscious efforts to be made to minimise hardship to the public by making some detour or using the existing roads/embankments on the border to the maximum extent possible, even if they are some distance away from the border, so that the hardships will be minimum to the people who are displaced. These instructions, we have issued to the State Government.

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: My second supplementary is whether the Government is aware that a large number of people will remain outside the border. What will be their future prospect of living? (*Interruptions*) Border roads are proposed to be constructed along the Indo-Bangladesh Borders and 150 metres away from the border. Within this 150 metres, there are so many people living with their dwelling houses. What will be the future prospect of living? I would like to know whether they will have to vacate their places or they will remain there.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: I think, I have answered the question. If we want to minimise the hardships, if it is required, they can even change the alignment a little even if it is beyond 150 metres away from the border to minimise the hardships of the people who are displaced. We have given that instruction to them to see that people are not harassed in any way.

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: It is going to be constructed 150 to 200 metres away from the borders. So, what will the prospect of those who are living outside the border?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: It is the border fencing which we have demarcated. If there is any difficulty faced by those people who are being affected, who are being displaced, the State Governments have been asked, directed to change the alignment a little so that people are least affected, the hardship is least to the people who are affected by this displacement. We have issued that instruction and gates are also being provided in the fence for helping those who are living outside the fence.

SHRI HAREN BHUMIJ: The Minister apprised the House day before yesterday that 2,010 kilometres road along with 1560 kilometres of the existing border roads as well as fencing construction work has been entrusted to three organisations in the Assam sector, it has been entrusted to the State Public Works Department (PWD). This PWD of Assam has earned the name of Public Worst Department. Every time the State Government accuses the Central Government that the Central Government is shifting the responsibility in implementing the Assam Accord. Would it be the endeavour of the Central Government to see that people of Assam as well as the State Government do not accuse the Central Government? Would it be the endeavour of the Central Government to entrust the work to such organisations so that the work would come out to the satisfaction of the people, the State Government and the Central Government?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: As the Hon. Member has said, there are three executing agencies. Project is being executed by Assam PWD in Assam State and Border Roads Organisation in Meghalaya and Tripura and CPWD in West Bengal.

These are the three agencies to which the work has been entrusted to.

So far as Assam is concerned, we have been giving them money as per their requirement for land acquisition, for fencing, for construction of roads etc.

I replied just now that we have already allotted Rs. 56, 811, 330.55 for this purpose. It has to be worked out in two phases of five year each. Thus, in ten years we have to complete. This year we are going to increase it by Rs. 25 crores which includes compensation part also. We have been writing again and again for expediting payment compensation. Now Rs. 3.84 crores were allotted to Assam for 1987-88 of which the amount for land acquisition was Rs. 1.43 crores. The utilisation was to be Rs. 3.84 crores but the utilisation was only Rs. 3.62 crores in 1987-88 for the entire border.

If Mr. Hamid is interested to know about Dhubri because he belongs to that area, I can give the figures. For Dhubri, we have allotted s. 1.10 crores for land acquisition but the actual utilisation is Rs. 56.8 lakhs.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: I want to know through you from the Hon. Minister whether they are going to rehabilitate the affected people on the border and those who have been affected by the border road construction. Now the Minister has replied that is the responsibility of the State Government to see that the rehabilitation is made and compensation is paid to the people. I want to know why is it that the Central Government is shifting its own burden to the State Government. Don't you think that you have your own responsibility for rehabilitation of the affected people? I want a specific answer on it.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: It the State Government expresses its inability that it cannot even rehabilitate the people

when it is replacing, let them write to the Central Government that it cannot take up this responsibility, then we shall do it. Usually it is the responsibility of the State Government to look after them.

### District Level Planning in Eight Plan

\*736. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RA-  
MOOWALIA:  
SHRI RAM DHAN:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether while preparing the draft of the Eighth Five Year Plan it has been decided that plans should be prepared at the district level;

(b) if so, the outlines of the programme prepared by Government so far to formulate the plans at the district level;

(c) whether suggestions of local intellectuals are also to be sought in this programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b). It is the intention of the Planning Commission to give high priority to district planning in the preparation of the Eighth Plan. States have already been requested to start the exercises for the formulation of the District Plans so that there is a greater amount of integration of the District Plans with the State Plans.

(c) and (d). It is presumed that formulation of District Plans would provided adequate opportunities for local intellectuals to give their input.