

voting machines. Even election officers appointed by the Government for the election duty do not have adequate knowledge about this machine. In cases where problems occur in the voting machine, the concerned polling officers at the polling booth face severe difficulties to rectify the problem, which also obstructs the normal polling.

Such a situation paves way for many anti-social elements to indulge in malpractices, which certainly could not be proved. Further, even the voter does not know as to whom he has voted for. It is not a healthy thing for our country, which is the largest democratic country in the world. If this situation continues in every public election, I can certainly say that the people of this democratic country may lose their confidence in the largest democratic system in the coming years. Many developed countries have already reverted back to ballot paper after the manipulations in electronic voting machines were detected.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, to take necessary action to revert back to the earlier ballot system in the coming public elections.

**Concern over the problems being faced by people living in the border areas
due to the barbed fencing**

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, in order to safeguard the people of their livelihood who are living in the periphery of the border area of our country, barbed fencing was erected in different districts of West Bengal, namely, Nadia Murshidabad, West Dinapur, etc., to protect from the influx of comedowns from the other country.

Although it is far from the zero point across the border, plenty of cultivable land owned by the farmers belong to that area. They are crossing the border to cultivate different types of crops in their own land. But they are now facing immense problems to cross the fencing for cultivation of their land. They are also experiencing hurdles to cross the entry point due to unnecessary harassment and unnecessary checking. In many places our common people are not in a position to have access so that they can cultivate their own farmland. But, panic in the border area is becoming worse leading to mounting problems.

A notice on behalf of the Border Security Force was hung up and a public meeting was convened. In the said meeting, the Border Security Force authorities appealed to the common people of the area and directed the people to cooperate so that they can cultivate the crops in their own land, but the height of the crop should not be more than 3 feet. Under the circumstances, the livelihood of the local farmers is at stake which may lead to other complications affecting the livelihood of the farmers community.

In view of the situation stated above, I would request the Government to take proper and just action so that the farmers and common people of our country can cultivate their own land and produce their livelihood.