

**Compensation to the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir**

SHRI T.S. BAJWA (Jammu & Kashmir): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, a large area of agricultural land has been affected because of barbed wire fencing on the Indo-Pak border in Jammu and Kashmir. Many farmers and labourers have been rendered jobless. The Government of India has neither announced any compensation for the agricultural landholders nor has proposed to provide employment to labourers. The Government should look into the matter and conduct a thorough survey to assess the whole situation and provide compensation to the farmers without any further delay.

Sir, the Government, while putting fencing on the Indo-Pak border in Jammu and Kashmir, had erected huge 'bands' to provide security cover for the personal engaged in fencing work. Their lands, covering more than 44 feet width area, have been badly affected and require compensation for the full damaged area. The Government has, at present, proposed to pay for the area width up to 44 feet only.

Secondly, Sir, some farmers have agricultural lands covering thousands of acres beyond the fencing on the border. They work in their fields in the normal way. They generally face many problems for taking their goods and for transporting seeds, fertilizers, agriculture tools up to the fields as the gates on borders are open and closed at will. Even womenfolk are not allowed to take food, etc. for their families that work in the fields for the whole day. I would, therefore, also request the Government to find out some ways to help such farmers and labourers who are facing problems in going to and coming back from their fields by allowing them to reach their agricultural lands through the gates. *Bona fide* and genuine landholders/labourers should not be put to inconvenience.

I would request the Central Government to take immediately necessary steps to pay adequate compensation to all affected farmers whose lands have been taken over either for laying mines, bunkers, fencing or for any other purpose for security reasons.

DR. M.S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member. Sir, it is a very serious matter in Punjab, Kashmir, Rajasthan and everywhere.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Okay. (*Interruptions*)

DR. M.S. GILL: The Defence Minister must do something about it.