

I. FENCING AND FLOOD LIGHTING OF BORDERS

Fencing and flood lighting of the border are important constituents of maintaining vigilance along the borders. In order to curb infiltration, smuggling and other anti-national activities from across Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders, the Government have undertaken the work of construction of fencing, flood lighting and roads along these borders.

(a) Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB) –

The Indian side of the Indo-Bangladesh border passes through West Bengal (2216.7 Km), Assam (263 Km), Meghalaya (443 Km), Tripura (856 Km) and Mizoram (318 Km). The entire stretch consists of plain, reverine, hilly/jungle and with hardly any natural obstacles. The area is heavily populated, and the cultivation is carried out till the last inch of the border.

The Indo-Bangladesh border is marked by a high degree of porosity and checking illegal cross border activities has been a challenging proposition. The main problem is of illegal migration from Bangladesh into India. In order to prevent illegal immigration and other anti-national activities from across the border, the Government of India had sanctioned the construction of border roads and fencing in two phases. The total length of Indo-Bangladesh border to be fenced is 3436 Km out of which 2654.44 Km of fencing has so far been completed. In addition, 3356.57 Km of border roads have also been constructed out of sanctioned length of 4326.24 Km. The phase wise progress of fencing and roads is at **Annexure-I**.

ANNEXURE-I

Status of fencing and border roads on Indo-Bangladesh border

Fencing

Name of State	PHASE I		PHASE II		TOTAL (PH.I + PH.II)	
	Sanctioned	Completed	Sanctioned	Completed	Sanctioned	Completed
W. Bengal	507	507	1021	686.29	1528	1193.29
Assam	152.31	149.29	77.72	70.09	230.03	219.38
Meghalaya	198.06	198.06	272.17	180.19	470.23	378.25
Tripura	-	-	855.97	708.67	855.97	708.67
Mizoram	-	-	352.33	154.85	352.33	154.85
Total	857.37	854.35	2579.19	1800.09	3436.56	2654.44

Roads

Name of State	PHASE I		PHASE II		TOTAL (PH.I + PH.II)	
	Sanctioned	Completed	Sanctioned	Completed	Sanctioned	Completed
W. Bengal	1770.16	1616.57	0.00	0.00	1770.00	1616.57
Assam	186.33	176.50	138.70	74.56	325.03	251.06
Meghalaya	211.29	211.29	327.87	200.85	539.16	412.14
Tripura	545.37	480.51	564.12	282.20	1109.49	762.71
Mizoram	153.40	153.06	429.16	161.03	582.56	314.09
Total	2866.39	2637.93	1459.85	718.64	4326.24	3356.57



Floodlighting

Government of India has also taken up floodlighting works along the IBB for close vigil, particularly in the night hours. A pilot project of floodlighting over a stretch of 277 Km has been completed in West Bengal. The Government has also sanctioned a project of floodlighting over 2840 Km of Indo-Bangladesh border at an estimate cost of Rs.1327 crore. The work has been assigned to Central Public Works Department (CPWD), National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) and National Project Construction Corporation (NPCC). The work is scheduled to be completed by March, 2012.

The High Level Empowered Committee, in its meetings held on 26th August, 2008 and 13th January, 2009, has approved estimates amounting to Rs.633 crore submitted by the executing agencies. The work of construction of floodlighting in 25 Km has been undertaken in West Bengal.

Replacement of fencing constructed under Phase-I

The Government of India has decided to replace the entire 861 Km of fence constructed under Phase-I in West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya, as most this fence has been damaged due to adverse climatic conditions, repeated submergence etc. The replacement work has already commenced in the States of Assam and West Bengal. 383 Km of fencing has been replaced so far.

(b) Indo-Pakistan border –

India shares 3323 Km (including Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir sector) of its land border with Pakistan. This border runs along the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. The Indo-Pakistan border has varied terrain and distinct geographical features. This border is characterized by attempts at infiltration by terrorists and smuggling of arms, ammunition and contraband, the Line of Control being the most active and live portion of the border.

Punjab & Rajasthan

A total length of 462.45 Km and 461 Km has been fenced and flood lit respectively in the entire Punjab sector, except some gaps in riverine areas. In Rajasthan sector also, the work of construction of fencing and flood lighting in 1048 Km and 1023 Km respectively has been completed except certain shifting sand dune areas.

Jammu International Border

In Jammu sector, the work of construction of 185 Km of fencing has been completed. 176.40 Km of floodlighting works have also been completed and work on remaining stretches is in progress

Gujarat

The Government had approved a comprehensive proposal for erecting fencing, floodlighting and construction of border/link roads and Border Out-Posts for Border Security Force in the Gujarat sector of the Indo-Pak border. Works of 217 km of fencing, 202 km of flood lighting and 241 km of border roads have been completed so far in this sector out of 340 km sanctioned. 35 BOPs have also been established out of 70 BOPs sanctioned.

There has been time overrun in completing the project due to unforeseen circumstances and natural calamities including devastating earthquake in 2001, unprecedented rains and consequential floods in 2003 & 2006. The cost of the project has also increased considerably due to price escalation, increase in the scope of work, upgradation of specifications for roads and electrical works etc. In addition, an expenditure of Rs.224 crore is estimated for upgradation works as per

Central Road Research Institute (CRRl) recommendations after the floods in 2006.

CCS in its meeting held on 20th July, 2009 has approved the proposal for extension of time for completion of fencing/floodlighting and revised cost for completion of the project amounting to Rs.1201 crore against original sanction of Rs.380 crore. The project is targeted to be completed by March, 2011 or three working season after the work is started.

The status of progress of fencing and floodlighting on the Indo-Pak border is indicated at **Annexure-II**.



ANNEXURE-II

Status of fencing and floodlighting on Indo-Pakistan border

Fencing

(Length in Km)

Name of the State	Total length of border	Total length of border to be fenced	Length of the border fenced so far	Remaining length of the border proposed to be fenced
Punjab	553	461	462.45*	---
Rajasthan	1037	1056.63	1048.27*	---
Jammu International Border	210	186	185	1
Gujarat	508	340	219	121
TOTAL	2308	2043.63	1914.72	122

* Length is more due to topographical factors/alignment of fencing

Floodlighting

(Length in Km)

Name of the State	Total length of border	Total length of border sanctioned to be floodlit	Length of the border floodlit so far	Remaining length of the border proposed to be floodlit
Punjab	553	460.72	460.72	---
Rajasthan	1037	1022.80	1022.80	---
Jammu International Border	210	195.80	176.04	19.76
Gujarat	508	340	202	138
TOTAL	2308	2019.32	1861.56	157.76



Proposal for shifting of fencing close to the border

Jammu IB

Initially, due to heavy volume of fire from across the border, in the stretch of 38.015 Km Indo-Pak Border, fence was erected at a distance, varying from 400 meters to 1.5 Km away from the International Border. After the ceasefire, there were representations from the border inhabitants, political parties and others to shift the fence closer to the IB.

The matter was accordingly examined and it was decided to shift 38.015 Km of fencing erected on Jammu International Border close to the border to facilitate the border inhabitants to cultivate their lands without problems. The estimated cost will be Rs.28.34 crore. The work of shifting the fence has started. With forward shifting of this stretch of fence, farmers' problems will be minimized.

Punjab

The Government proposes to shift of 22.58 Km of fencing closer to the border in certain stretches of Ferozpur sector in Punjab due to the problems being faced by the farmers in cultivating their lands. The cost implication for this proposed shifting is to the extent of Rs.25.24 crore in respect of fencing and Rs.5.73 crore in respect of floodlighting.