

No.1/99-PSPB-R.O.(BADP)-2008/6113

Government of Punjab
Department of Planning
(BADP Division)

Tel No.0172-2704520, Fax No.0172-2705345

To

Sh. Shantanu Consul,
Secretary to Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
(Department of Border Management)
North Block, New Delhi.

Dated the Chandigarh, 25 June, 2008

Subject: Request for providing additional assistance for Valtoha Block (District Taran Tarn) under Special Project category of Border Area Development Programme for the State of Punjab.

Sir,

Kindly refer to the subject cited above.

2. Punjab has a 553 KM long International Border (IB) running across the four border districts of Amritsar, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran. Unlike other border states people are living close to the International Border and cultivating their lands right upto the border. They have been very badly affected by the three wars with Pakistan and numerous restrictions on account of security considerations have resulted in sub optimal production and poor socio-economic infrastructure. The 18 border blocks abutting the international border are significantly under developed in comparison to the other blocks of the State.

3. In order to know the first hand information about the problems of border peoples, Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered a survey of the Valtoha border block in Taran Tarn District on Pilot basis, and the project was assigned to Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Guru Nanak Dev University has submitted its report/plan of Valtoha block, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. Interalia, the Guru Nank Dev University has worked out a requirement of Rs 137.52 Cr for the overall development of Valtoha block, out of which Rs 86.00 Cr are required for works of immediate nature. Major requirements include:

- (i) Improvement in education facilities like additional rooms, toilets, drinking water, fans, furniture, etc. in schools – Rs 12.37 Cr.
- (ii) A Degree College preferably for girls and ITI/Polytechnic.

- (iii) Improvement in health facilities i.e. building and equipment - Rs 22.93 Cr.
- (i) Improvement in veterinary facilities i.e. building and equipment - Rs 1.10 Cr.
- (ii) Improvement in road infrastructure i.e. new links and Recarpeting of link roads – Rs 56.32 Cr.
- (iii) Three Growth centres – Rs 13.50 Cr .
- (iv) Irrigation-restoration and opening of water courses, lining and strengthening of banks of canals etc. - Rs 3.40 Cr.
- (v) Development of infrastructure facilities in 12 service villages such as veterinary dispensaries, purchase centre, godown, seed store. A pesticide, fertilizer Shop, Bank, Dharmshala etc. - Rs 26.37 Cr.
- (vi) Rural Sanitation - Rs 1.189 Cr.

4. Under the Border Area Development Programme, Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs (BM) has allocated an amount of Rs 22.18 Cr for the State of Punjab during 2008-09. Out of this, the share of Valtroha block comes to Rs 1.69 Cr which is not sufficient to meet the immediate requirements of this block. You are therefore, requested to kindly consider to provide additional assistance for this Special/pilot project under Border Area Development Programme during 2008-09.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Satish Chandra)

Endst.No.1/99-PSPB-R.O.(BADP)-2008/ 6114

Dated: 25/06/2008

A copy of the above is forwarded to Sh. Madhukar Gupta, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi for information and necessary action.

Sd/-

(Satish Chandra)