

My name is Dekyi Dolma and I am 19 years old. It has been two months since I arrived here. I lived in Tibet in an area called Golok Dadampa. During the summer there are plenty of grass and an abundance of water. The animals in that area don't face any problems. However, in autumn, both the grass and water are in short supply, as it takes longer for the grass to grow during the winter.

What policies did the Chinese government introduce in your area?

The Fencing policy has been implemented. The Chinese government brought wire on trucks and had two members from every family help them unload the wires for the fencing. If the land is not covered properly there is a punishment. Fences are made all over the nomads' land borders. During the summer we really don't see this as troublesome, but in spring and winter the restriction of our animals on grazing sites has made them skinny.

Do nomads purchase the wires from the government?

The Government provides wires to the nomads, but I don't know specifically if money is paid.

How many livestock are there in your family?

There are a maximum of 300 to 400 livestock in each nomad family. Within a family, there are 8 to 11 members. Recently, there were orders from the government to have a limited number of children in the family and a restriction on the number of animals that can be owned. However, these policies have not been implemented in my area, but recently they have been trying to put it into practice.

Could you tell us about the yak being sold at only 1000 yuan?

Yaks are required to be sold at 1000 yuan. They give this price only to those yaks that are the largest in size. Some of these yaks are like Dong (wildyak). When the best yaks are taken away the nomads are left with weaker animals.

Do you find more grasses for livestock after fencing policy?

Of course not. We face many problems in spring.

Earlier we used to go to Sertha without any difficulty. Now the paths are fenced and there is no way to reach the area except through the highways that are used for big vehicles. I believe there should at least be a few paths for the nomads to use. Once, a guard caught us when we tried to walk beneath the wire fence. We told the guard that there used to be path earlier and that we didn't want to walk on long way around to avoid both ours and our animals fatigue. He let us go but asked us not to do it again when we returned. Fencing does not only bring problem to animals but also to human beings by blocking roads.

Do nomads talk about the changes of climate such as unprecedented rainfall or rise in temperature?

The sun has become hotter. I wasn't told about rainfall and snowfall by my parents.