Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding formal border trade along the Indo-Bangladesh borderlaid

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): The district of Murshidabad in West Bengal is recognized as a poor and backward district in the country. It has been included in the list of aspirational district. Lakhs of poor people migrate to the other parts of the countries and also go to the gulf region. As it is a porous district bordering the neighbouring country Bangladesh, a substantial number of people are involved in illegal trade which can safely be called smuggling with Bangladesh. More often than not, this kind of illegal trade entails a conflict between BSF and common men who are involved in smuggling under the duress. Simply it is a way of their livelihood. However both India and Bangladesh government want to enhance trade and other business activities. In this regard my proposal to government is to facilitate formal border trade along the Indo - Bangladesh border by establishing "border huts" which may change the economic scenario and more so it will contribute to government kitty. The so called smugglers could be converted into traders.