

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:208
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2006
TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH .
Nayak Shri Ananta;Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Bangladesh has refused to transit goods from North East and gas from Myanmar to India;
- (b) Whether there has been sharp decline in the Indo-Bangladesh trade;
- (c) If so, the reasons therefor; and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) The steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Under Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (IWTT) between India and Bangladesh, Bangladesh has allowed India transit routes from the main land to the North-Eastern Indian States through the inland waterways. The agreed routes under IWTT are :

- (i) Kolkata-Haldia-Raimongal-Chalna-Khulna-Mongla-Kaukhali-Barisal -Hizla-Chandpur-Narayanganj-Aricha-Sirajganj-Bahadurabad-Chilmari- Dhubri-Pandu.
- (ii) Pandu-Dhubri-Chilmari-Bahadurabad-Sirajganj-Aricha-Narayanganj- Chandpur-Hizla-Barisal-Kaukhali-Mongla-Khulna-Chalna-Raimongal- Haldia-Kolkata.
- (iii) Kolkata-Haldia-Raimongal-Mongla-Kaukhali-Barisal-Hizla-Chandpur- Narayanganj-Bhairab Bazaar-Ajmiriganj-Markuli-Sherpur-Fenchuganj- Zakiganj-Karimganj.
- (iv) Karimganj-Zakiganj-Fenchuganj-Sherpur-Markuli-Ajmiriganj-Bhairab Bazaar-Narayanganj-Chandpur-Hizla-Barisal/Kaukhali-Mongla-Raimongal- Haldia-Kolkata.
- (v) Rajsahi-Godagari-Dhulian
- (vi) Dhulian-Godagari-Rajsahi
- (vii) Karimganj-Zakiganj-Fenchuganj-Sherpur-Markuli-Ajmiriganj-BhairabBazaar- Narayanganj-Chandpur-Aricha-Sirajganj-Bahadurabad-Chilmari-Dhubri-Pandu.
- (viii) Pandu-Dhubri-Chilmari-Bahadurabad-Sirajganj-Aricha-Chandpur- Narayanganj-Bhairab Bazaar-Ajmiriganj-Markuli-Sherpur-Fenchuganj- Zakiganj-Karimganj.

Goods through the inland waterways can transit from Kolkata to Pandu (Assam), Kalkata to Karimganj (Assam) and Pandu to Karimganj (both in Assam). There is no transportation of goods permitted by railways and roadways between the States of North-Eastern India and Bangladesh. As regards transit of gas from Myanmar to India, the Government of Bangladesh has put several bilateral conditionalities before it could agree to the trilateral gas pipeline proposal. These conditionalities are

- (i) reduction of trade deficit,
 - (ii) transmission of electricity from Nepal and Bhutan through India to Bangladesh, and
 - (iii) grant of transit by India to Bangladesh for its trade with Nepal and Bhutan.
- (b) The following is the table giving details from the year 2000-01 to 2005-06:

(Value in US \$ Million)

| Year | India's exports to Bangladesh | India's imports from Bangladesh | Total trade |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 2000-01 | 0872.98 | 73.87 | 0946.85 |
| 2001-02 | 1002.18 | 59.12 | 1061.30 |
| 2002-03 | 1176.00 | 62.05 | 1238.24 |
| 2003-04 | 1740.75 | 77.63 | 1818.38 |
| 2004-05 | 1631.12 | 59.37 | 1690.49 |
| 2005-06 | 1632.44 | 118.76 | 1751.20 |

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

In the year 2003-04, the volume of the bilateral trade was US\$ Million 1818.38 which reduced to US\$ Million 1690.49 in 2004-05. However, in the year 2005-06, the bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh has increased to US\$ Million 1751.20. The above table, therefore, suggests that there has been no sharp decline in the India-Bangladesh trade.

(c) & (d): Both India and Bangladesh have taken several measures to enhance bilateral trade during the just concluded Fourth Round of India-Bangladesh Meeting of Joint Working Group on Trade held in Agartala (Tripura) on July 5-6, 2006 and Third Meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Group of Customs Officials held on May 3-4, 2006.