

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2489  
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2005  
OPENING OF BIRGUNJ INLAND CONTAINER DEPOT, NEPAL  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether Birgunj inland container depot in Nepal has been thrown open in view of India-Nepal bilateral trade;
- (b) if so, whether this Birgunj ICD was commissioned in July,2004; and
- (c) if so, the extent to which this will help in improving Indo-Nepal trade?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) & (b) : Yes Sir. Birgunj inland container depot in Nepal has been opened with effect from 16th July, 2004 with a view to increase bilateral trade between India and Nepal.

(c) : Under the Rail Services Agreement between India and Nepal signed in May, 2004, initially Nepal's third country cargo traffic in sealed containers was permitted. With the opening of this route, cargo traffic in containers and closed wagons between India and Nepal has also been allowed through ICD, Birgunj. ICD, Birgunj is expected to further strengthen India-Nepal trade by reducing cost of transportation, increasing the security of goods in transit and facilitating quick movement of cargo.