

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2326
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
BORDER TRADE
Vanlalzawma Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to open 'Border Trade' with Myanmar and Bangladesh along the Mizoram Border;
- (b) if so, since when such a proposal is pending with the Government; and
- (c) the present status thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c) With Myanmar, a Border Trade Agreement was signed in 1994 to provide a legal framework to the existing practice of trade in traditional goods carried on head. Under this agreement, a border trade point along the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram was opened at Zowkhathar (Mizoram)-Rhi (Myanmar) in January 2004.

With Bangladesh, an agreement was signed in 1972 for conducting border trade in traditional goods, but the agreement has not become operational so far. Subsequently, a Joint Group of Experts was set up in 1997 to examine the issue of border trade between the two countries. The nomination of Bangladesh members of the Group is awaited. Government of India is pursuing the matter further with the Bangladesh side. There is also a proposal to open a land customs station at Tiabung (Demagiri) to facilitate trade along the India-Bangladesh border in Mizoram for which a response is awaited from Bangladesh.