

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1510

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013

LAND ROUTE TO MYANMAR

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Meinya Dr. Thokchom;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is skeptical about opening land routes to Myanmar and South-East Asia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Myanmar Government is ready to sign an agreement with India to open up the existing land route via Moreh and Tamu for trade and tourism between the two countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the progress made so far to start bus service between Imphal (India) and Mandalay (Myanmar)?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) Government attaches high priority to promoting connectivity between India and South East Asia. It is also a major pillar of the Government's "Look East" Policy. In this endeavour, Government has taken several initiatives to open land routes to Myanmar and South-East Asia, including the Trilateral Highway Project, the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project, the Rhi Tiddim Road Project and the Imphal - Mandalay Bus Service. These projects would enhance cross border trade, tourism, people-to-people contacts and economic development of areas on both sides of the border.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d) In 1994, India and Myanmar signed a Border Trade Agreement under which border trading points were established in Moreh (Manipur)-Tamu (Myanmar) and in Zowkhathar (Mizoram) -Rhi (Myanmar). In October 2008, both countries agreed to upgrade border trade to normal trade at the Moreh-Tamu and Zowkhathar-Rhi border trading points. Bilateral mechanisms, including Joint Border Trade Committee, Joint Committee on Border Haats and Joint Trade Committee, have been set up to improve bilateral trade.

(e) Following two rounds of technical level discussions on the Imphal- Mandalay Bus Service between India and Myanmar, a draft MoU was finalised. A Protocol to the draft MoU, which includes provisions related to immigration and visa, has been shared with the Myanmar side to enable its early operationalisation.