

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:157

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014

LAND BORDER AGREEMENT WITH BANGLADESH

Mohan Shri P. C.;Sundaram Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the External Affairs Minister visited Bangladesh recently and if so, the details of discussions held, MoUs signed and areas of co-operation identified during the visit;

(b) whether the issues regarding Land Border Agreement (LBA) and Teesta Water Sharing Treaty also came up during the discussion and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Bangladesh has requested for a transit to Nepal and Bhutan through India and if so, the details and response of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 157 REGARDING "LAND BORDER AGREEMENT WITH BANGLADESH" FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2014

(a) to (c) External Affairs Minister (EAM) had visited Bangladesh from June 25-27, 2014. During her visit, EAM called on the President and Prime Minister of Bangladesh and held extensive discussions with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. EAM also met the Leader of the Opposition and leaders of various political parties as well as representatives of Chambers of Commerce, socio-cultural organizations and academic and media community. During the visit, the two sides discussed bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest and concern, including cooperation in border management, trade and investment, security, connectivity, power, infrastructure development etc. The visit helped further strengthen our close bonds of friendship and bilateral cooperation with Bangladesh. No MOUs were signed during the visit.

The issues of Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) 1974 and the proposed Teesta River water agreement were also discussed during the visit. The Indian side conveyed that the Constitution (119th Amendment) Bill for implementing the LBA 1974 and the Protocol to LBA signed in 2011 was introduced in Rajya Sabha in December 2013 and that the Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs. On the Teesta River water sharing agreement it was conveyed that efforts are under way to develop domestic political consensus.

The issue of transit to Nepal and Bhutan through India was not raised by the Bangladesh side during the visit of EAM. No such request has been formally made by Bangladesh so far.