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**Title: Need to open trade route between India, Myanmar and Bangladesh from Mizoram for its all round development.**

**SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (MIZORAM):** The small north-eastern State of Mizoram shares a 404 kilometres long international border with Myanmar and 318 kilometres with Bangladesh. In comparison, Mizoram shares only 284 kilometres with its neighbouring States of Manipur, Assam, and Tripura.

Before 1947, Mizoram, then called the Lushai Hills had a self-sufficient economy. Goods used to come from Bangladesh and Myanmar into Mizoram by road and by boat at several entry points and *vice versa*. With the closure of all traditional routes of trade after independence, the Aizwal-Silchar highway on its northern border with Assam has been the only road linkage with the rest of the country. As such, the economy of Mizoram is severely constrained by poor communication, lack of infrastructural facilities and unavailability of market to sell its agricultural and horticulture produce.

In order to develop Mizoram economy, it is therefore, imperative that border trade with its neighbouring countries should be given a fillip. To Raise the border trade to a significant level for Mizoram, impetus has to be given for the establishment of more trade centre and establishing new and improved existing infrastructural facilities like road and river linkages and upgrading existing facilities/policies and procedures governing border trade between India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, respectively.

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