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Title: Need to set up proposed small markets in Karimganj Parliamentary Constituency in Assam along Bangladesh border.

SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ): Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency, Karimganj is bordering Bangladesh. In New Delhi, January, 2010, India and Bangladesh decided to set up Border Haats to boost local trade and people-to-people contact. Trading would initially take place once a week among the people living in the border, who would sell and buy locally-produced goods and crops etc. No taxes would be imposed on the items to be sold in the Haats; and currencies of both the countries would be allowed to run the trading.

Sir, the Joint Secretaries of the Ministry of Commerce from India and Bangladesh had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2010 and finalized the modalities to set up the Border Haats. It was decided that a total of 70 Border Haats will be set up along the border with Bangladesh. Of them, four are to be set up with Assam border.

As per agreement, some border *haats* are already being set up in Meghalaya and Tripura with Bangladesh border. Though there was a proposal to set up such kind of *haats* in my constituency, it was not initiated till to date. So, through this august House, I would request the Union Commerce Ministry and also the Industry Ministry to set up the same for the greater interest of the locality. Thank you.