

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2942
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

ACT EAST POLICY

#2942. SHRI JOGEN MOHAN

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken new initiatives under the Act East Policy benefiting Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Assam is proposed to be developed as a trade gateway to South-East Asia; and
- (d) the major infrastructure projects being implemented?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a to d) India's North Eastern Region including Assam is central to the Act East Policy, serving as the country's strategic gateway to Southeast Asia. The region provides the shortest overland connectivity to ASEAN and is critical for promoting trade, transport, tourism, energy cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment & Infrastructure Summit, inaugurated by the Prime Minister in Guwahati in February 2025, centred on projecting Assam as India's "Expressway to ASEAN". A companion roadshow in Kuala Lumpur showcased opportunities in the semiconductor ecosystem, logistics, cross-border trade and tourism infrastructure.

One of the major outcomes of the Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit was the signing of MoU between Govt of Assam and Singapore on Nursing Talent Skills Cooperation to strengthen nursing skill development and facilitate employment opportunities. Govt of Assam has also signed an MoU with Singapore in 2023 on Urban Planning to strengthen cooperation in urban planning and sustainable urban development in Guwahati. The first commercial export of GI-tagged Tezpur Litchis to Singapore in June 2026 is an example of successful efforts to deepen Assam's economic integration with ASEAN under government's Act East Policy.

Government continues to accord high priority to infrastructure initiatives such as the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and enhanced multi-modal connectivity under the Act East Policy. Lines of Credit (LoC) have been extended to the Government of Bangladesh and various projects are being implemented to facilitate cross-border connectivity via Assam.
