

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2948
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

TRADE WITH BANGLADESH

2948. SHRI RAJEEV KUMAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ministry is planning to work on an alternative to BBIN agreement to find an efficient way to transport goods to/from NE States from/to mainland India through the Bangladesh road network and if so, the details of efforts made till date; and
- (b) the average number of days taken to obtain an Indian visa, especially a medical visa by any Bangladeshi citizen;
- (c) whether there is any robust system in place to see if the letter from the inviting hospital in India is genuine; and
- (d) the details of efforts made to improve this process to boost bilateral relations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) The Government of India continues to engage with the Government of Bangladesh on development of cross-border connectivity projects that would improve access to India's Northeastern states, including by enhancing road and rail links, bilateral trade and connectivity.

(b to d) The visa processing time varies depending on the merits of each case, supporting documentation and interview process. Our Mission and Posts in Bangladesh accord high priority to medical visa applications. Following submission of the application, medical visas are normally issued within 5–6 working days. There are appropriate procedures in place for verification of invitation letters issued by hospitals.

Mission facilitates the visa application process by providing guidance to applicants via help desks at the Indian Visa Application Centre. The centre extends necessary assistance in cases involving genuine procedural issues and assists in the expeditious processing of visa applications that fulfill the prescribed requirements.
