

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue

Lok Sabha
Unstarred Question No. 1617

To be answered on Monday, 31st July 2023/ Sravana 9, 1945 (Saka)

Land Customs Stations in Meghalaya

1617. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the numbers of Land Customs Stations (LCSs) in Meghalaya, name/location-wise;
- (b) the type of trade/items allowed to be traded from a particular LCS in Meghalaya;
- (c) whether fish is allowed to be imported from Bangladesh to India *via* Meghalaya;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of new proposals awaiting for approval from the Government to open LCS in Meghalaya; and
- (f) whether the Government has any plan to improve and expand the LCS in Meghalaya, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

- (a) There are 12 Land Customs Stations notified in the State of Meghalaya *vide* Notification No. 63/94-Customs (N.T.) dated 21.11.1994, as amended. They are located at the international border with Bangladesh. The names and locations are attached at Annexure. Out of the aforesaid 12 Land Customs Stations,
 - (i) 3 LCS, namely, Bholaganj, Ryngku and Balat, also have Border Haat; and
 - (ii) 2 LCS, namely, Nalikata and Kalaichar, have only Border Haat.
- (b) The Foreign Trade Policy and relevant laws of India such as the Livestock Importation Act, 1898; the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003; the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914; the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006; the Environment Protection Act, 1986; the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act, 1985 etc. lay down restrictions pertaining to export/import which are applicable to all land customs stations including those in Meghalaya.

Bangladesh Government also issues notifications from time to time on which items can be imported into Bangladesh from India through these LCS.

The following goods are allowed to be traded at the notified Border Haats:

- (i) locally produced vegetables, fruits, food items, spices;
- (ii) minor local forest produce including bamboo, bamboo grass and broom stick but excluding timber;

- (iii) produce of local cottage industry including gamcha, lungi and the like;
 - (iv) small locally produced agricultural household implements including dao, plough, axe, spade, chisel and the like; and
 - (v) locally produced garments, melamine products, processed food items, fruit juice and the like.
- (c) Import of fish through any of the Land Customs Stations in Meghalaya is not allowed by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in terms of the Livestock Importation Act, 1898.
- (d) Not applicable in view of Part (c) above.
- (e) Opening of new LCS entails assessment of trade potential and infrastructure. It involves inter-Ministerial consultations. Further, consent of the neighbouring country is a pre-requisite. Thus, question does not arise.
- (f) The Government is committed to improving the trade infrastructure, including providing EDI connectivity, at the LCS in Meghalaya. Mahendraganj, Dalu and Dawki are already EDI connected. In addition, the Land Ports Authority of India has the mandate to upgrade the existing LCS into ICP (Integrated Check Post).

Annexure

S.No.	Name of LCS	District
1	Baghmara	South Garo Hills
2	Ghasuapara	South Garo Hills
3	Mahendraganj	South West Garo Hills
4	Dalu	West Garo Hills
6	Barsora	South West Khasi Hills
6	Dawki	Jaintia Hills
7	Shella Bazar	East Khasi Hills
8	Bholaganj*	East Khasi Hills
9	Ryngku*	East Khasi Hills
10	Balat*	East Khasi Hills
11	Nalikata**	South West Khasi Hills
12	Kalaichar**	West Garo Hills

*These sites also have Border Haat

** These sites have only Border Haat
