

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2071**  
ANSWERED ON- 15/12/2023

**TRADE ROUTES**

2071. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY

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

- (a) whether a series of trade routes historically connected the Indian subcontinent with the rest of Asia and Europe and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether development of a historic India-Middle East-Europe Economic corridor is underway and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether economic corridor has potential to revolutionize global maritime industry in the 21st century;
- (d) the potential benefits of this economic corridor in financial, socio-economic and environmental terms; and
- (e) the details of the number of jobs likely to be generated after completion of this economic corridor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) India has millennia old civilizational and trade linkages with the rest of Asia and Europe. Their revival would represent a return of history.

(b to e) On the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit, Leaders of India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE and the US announced an MoU committing to work together to develop a new India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC). The IMEC will comprise of two separate corridors, the east corridor connecting India to the Gulf and the northern corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe.

The corridor will provide reliable and cost-effective cross-border ship to rail transit network to supplement existing maritime routes. It intends to increase efficiency, reduce costs, secure regional supply chains, increase trade accessibility, enhance economic cooperation, generate jobs and lower greenhouse gas emission, resulting in a transformative integration of Asia, Europe and the Middle East (West Asia).

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