

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 569

To be answered on
Wednesday, February 5, 2020/Magha 16, 1941(Saka)

QUESTION
Act East Policy

569. SHRI TAPIR GAO:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of Act East Policy in connecting South East Asian countries along with the number of border trade centres that has been established other than Manipur and Mizoram;
- (b) the number of kilometres of road connectivity that has been constructed connecting South East Asian countries and the details of air connectivity that has been established;
- (c) the number of inland water connectivity that has been established under Act East Policy;
- (d) the total economic growth of border trades in the last three years in the North East; and
- (e) whether Manipur and Mizoram border trade centres have been established in world class with banking, currency exchange, IT etc.?

ANSWER

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
[Dr. Jitendra Singh]

(a) to (c) India's 'Act East' policy focuses on the extended neighbourhood with the primary objective of promoting economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop strategic relationship with countries through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels which would eventually provide enhanced connectivity to the states of North Eastern region. India's projects in Myanmar includes Kaladalan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project and the construction of the India-Myanmar - Thailand Trilateral Highway, which includes the restoration of 69 bridges including an approach road and upgradation of Kalewa Yargyi road segment in Myanmar. Under connectivity with Myanmar, India had funded and constructed the 160 Km road segment (Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa segment) of the Trilateral Highway from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Myanmar in 2001 and maintained it till 2009 before handing over to the Government of Myanmar. Projects in Bangladesh include

Akhaura- Agartala rail link and Dredging of Jamuna and Kushiya rivers in Bangladesh and signing of Memorandum of Understanding and Standard Operating Procedures with Bangladesh for the use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports of Bangladesh for movement of goods to and from India. The Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project consists of a waterway component on Kaladan river from Sittwe to Paletwa in Myanmar and a road component from Paletwa to Zorinpui on the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram State for interlinking India and Myanmar by providing alternate connectivity for India's North Eastern states via Myanmar through road and inland water transport routes. It comprises of construction of Sittwe Port and IWT terminal at Paletwa; fairway development of Kaladan river (Sittwe - Paletwa stretch) and 109 Km roads component uptill Mizoram Border. Under the KMTTP, 158 Km Port and Waterways component and construction of 06 IWT vessels (300 tonnes each) is completed.

Other than Manipur and Mizoram, there are no operational border trade centres with Myanmar. Presently four Border Haats are operational at (i) Kalaichar – Meghalaya; (ii) Balat – Meghalaya; (iii) Kamalasagar – Tripura; (iv) Srinagar – Tripura. Besides, the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Moreh in the state of Manipur, ICP at Agartala, Tripura is also operational.

As regards completing road connectivity to South East Asian countries, 86.20 Km out of 88.00 Km 2-Lane Road with paved shoulder from Lawngtalia -India /Myanmar Border has been completed in Mizoram. Jairampur to Pangsupass section of NH-315 connecting India and Myanmar having length of 32.49 Km was completed under SARDP-NE in the year 2015 in Arunachal Pradesh. Besides, about 777 km (10 Nos) length of road are completed including maintenance and 1477 km (20 Nos) length of road is under progress by the Border Roads Organisation in Manipur and Mizoram. 28 Km length of Imphal-Moreh (Myanmar-Border) Section of NH 39 (2 laning) is complete.

At present NOK AIR is operating twice a week flight between Guwahati and Bangkok for air connectivity.

(d) to(e) India's trade via North Eastern States during the last three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20 (April- November) is given at **Annexure I**. Integrated Check Post (ICP), Moreh in the state of Manipur along India Myanmar border has been developed to facilitate trade and passenger movement across the land border and is operational. The Land Customs Station at Zokhawthar, Mizoram has certain constraints relating to banking, internet connectivity etc.

India's Trade via North Eastern State during the last three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20 (April- November)

(Unit: in Million US\$)

Ports	2017-18			2018-19			2019-20 (Apr-Nov)		
	Export	Import	Total Trade	Export	Import	Total Trade	Export	Import	Total Trade
BANGLADESH PR	88.743	75.867	164.610	70.521	85.346	155.867	37.087	56.549	93.636
Assam	12.650	19.797	32.446	12.007	25.227	37.234	3.543	23.295	26.839
GOLOKGANS RLY.STN	1.808		1.808	4.402		4.402	0.977	1.432	2.409
KARIMGANJ STEAMERGHAT	2.319		2.319	2.391	0.600	2.991	0.001		0.001
MANKACHAR	0.119	0.775	0.894	0.554	1.268	1.821			
SUTARKANDI	8.403	19.022	27.425	4.660	23.359	28.019	2.565	21.863	24.428
Meghalaya	75.216	2.773	77.989	56.284	2.159	58.443	33.241	0.716	33.958
BHOLLAGANJ	3.737		3.737	11.445		11.445	4.151		4.151
BORSORAH	36.321		36.321	14.727		14.727	7.192		7.192
DALU	0.702	0.088	0.790	0.329	0.222	0.551	0.330	0.185	0.515
MAHENDRAGANJ	0.565	2.685	3.251	0.386	1.937	2.322	0.217	0.532	0.748
SHEUABAZAR	33.891		33.891	29.397		29.397	21.352		21.352
Tripura	0.878	53.298	54.176	2.229	57.961	60.190	0.302	32.538	32.840
AGARTALA	0.042	30.282	30.324	0.151	38.993	39.143	0.014	21.065	21.079
KHOWAIGHAT		0.185	0.185		0.196	0.196			
LCS MAHURIGHAT		6.223	6.223		6.462	6.462		2.806	2.806
LCS MANU	0.797	1.688	2.485	1.366	2.066	3.432	0.285	1.623	1.909
OLD RAGHNA BAZAR LCS (TRIPURA)	0.001	0.046	0.047	0.614	1.385	1.999	0.003	0.446	0.449
SRIMANTAPUR	0.039	14.873	14.912	0.099	8.860	8.959		6.597	6.597
BHUTAN	21.784	1.135	22.920	9.873	2.913	12.786	49.357	14.838	64.195
Assam	21.784	1.135	22.920	9.873	2.913	12.786	49.357	14.838	64.195
DARRANGA (RANGIA)				9.873	2.907	12.781	36.565	14.838	51.403
HATISAR (Deosiri)	21.784	1.135	22.920				12.792		12.792
MANKACHAR					0.005	0.005			
CHINA					0.065	0.065			
Sikkim					0.065	0.065			
SHERATHANG (NEAR NATHULA PASS)					0.065	0.065			
Grand Total	110.527	77.003	187.530	80.394	88.323	168.718	86.444	71.387	157.831

Source: Department of Commerce