

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.320
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2021**

OPENING OF BORDER

320. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the traders and the people living on the Indo-Nepal border crossings at Panitanki and Pashupatinagar under Darjeeling constituency are facing huge business losses and are struggling because of the delay in opening of normal trades and border crossing mechanisms and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has made any assessment of the impact on business on both sides of the border and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to rectify the situation; and
- (c) the details of the plans regarding reopening of border crossings at Panitanki, Pashupatinagar and other such borders?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]**

(a) to (c) Government has been taking steps to ensure that movement of goods through the regular cross-border trade points on the India-Nepal border, including at Panitanki-Kakarbhitta, has not been affected by Covid-19. As regards movement of people, Government has permitted entry of Indian and Nepalese citizens across the border from 21 October 2020, including through Panitanki and Pashupatinagar border crossing points.
