

Government of India  
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3565**

To be answered on  
Monday, August 8, 2022/Sravana 17, 1944 (Saka)

**QUESTION**  
**Connectivity of North-East**

3565. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has noted that prolonged disruption of surface communication across major part of the North East due to floods and landslides has renewed the demand for fast-tracking the railway and road connectivity with India's "mainland" through Bangladesh and there are great potentials of trade and commerce as railway and road connectivity between Barak Valley and West Bengal *via* Bangladesh is expected to cut the travel time by 24-36 hours;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has initiated any diplomatic moves with Bangladesh for the purpose; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**The Minister of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region**  
**[Shri G. Kishan Reddy]**

(a) to (c) Enhancing comprehensive connectivity between India and Bangladesh, through North East, is an important aspect of our bilateral cooperation and significant progress has been made in recent years. Rail and bus services between the two

countries have resumed after the pandemic. Recently, Mitalee Express from New Jalpaiguri to Dhaka through Haldibari-Chilahati has started operating from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2022. This is the third passenger rail service between India and Bangladesh. The ongoing Railway projects of "Agartala-Akhaura- Rail link" connecting Agartala (Tripura) with Akhaura (Bangladesh) and "Construction of Mahisasan (India)-Zero Point (Bangladesh) new line" shall also improve connectivity between the two countries. Construction of Maitri Setu on river Feni in Sabroom has been completed and Royal Maitri International bus Services from Tripura to Kolkata via Bangladesh by Tripura Road Transport Corporation (TRTC) have started.

Further, an MoU for facilitating temporary transit of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) products through Bangladesh to India's North Eastern Region has been signed between Ministry of Road and Highways, Government of Bangladesh and the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. on August 02, 2022.

The proposal for developing a road link from Mahendraganj in Meghalaya to Hili in West Bengal through Bangladesh was raised with Bangladesh during the Virtual Summit held in December 2020, as well as during the Prime Minister's visit to Bangladesh in March, 2021.

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