

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5915  
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001  
DEMAND FOR FREE TRADE  
CHELLAMELLA SUGUNA KUMARI

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether North Eastern States are demanding for free trade by reopening of traditional border routes and free trade zones along Bangladesh border;
- (b) if so, whether the Indian Government have taken up this matter with Bangladesh authorities during the talks held in New Delhi in June, 2001; and
- (c) if so, the response of Bangladesh Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH )

(a) : Yes, Sir.

( b ) & ( c ) : The issue has been referred to a Joint Group of Experts of India and Bangladesh for making appropriate recommendations.