

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3222
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH CHINA .
Chowdhury Shri Bansagopal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any action plan has been proposed by the Union Government for strengthening cooperation with China after opening of Nathula Pass; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a)&(b) Border trade between India and China through the Nathula Pass was resumed with effect from July 6, 2006 at the Changgu border trade mart at Sherathang on the Indian side and the Renqinggang trade mart on the Chinese side in accordance with the Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade signed between India and China on June 23, 2003, after basic infrastructure for conducting border trade was put in place at these locations. Both sides are engaged in upgradation of the relevant infrastructure with a view to further expanding border trade through the Nathula Pass, which is expected to bring benefit to the local economy.