

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:125
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL
Kuppusami Shri C.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Nepal has requested India to help and guide it to increase its foreign trade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether access to seaport through Haldia and rail transit to Chittagong port in Bangladesh has been requested;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any special group task force has been constituted to pay greater attention for the development of better relations with Nepal including in the sector of foreign trade and technology; and
- (f) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c)-(d) Nepal already enjoys the facility of the use of the Haldia port for movement of third country goods in transit to and from Nepal under the India-Nepal Treaty of Transit. No request has been received from Government of Nepal regarding rail transit to Chittagong port in Bangladesh.
- (e)-(f) The two Governments have established an Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) on trade and transit issues at the level of the Commerce Secretaries. The last meeting of the Committee was held on 24-25 August, 2006 in New Delhi.