

Title: Need to take initiatives to begin border trade through the North Eastern Region.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (TRIPURA WEST): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Central Government to the North-Eastern region of the country. With a population of about 3.5 crore, it has vast market potential. Though the population of this region consists of different ethnic groups, and many religious divisions which has divergent views, yet the common issues like mainstream of economic activity, concern all the sections of people.

Sir, border trade has already commenced of Mizoram and Manipur with Myanmar. Initiatives may be taken by the Central Government to begin border trade between Tripura and Bangladesh as well. Tripura has the advantage of being close to Bangladesh. The South East Asia is not very far away from the North-East. Initiatives may be taken by the Central Government to begin border trade in this region.

Sir, the Central Government may try to get access to Chittagong Port of Bangladesh which is located barely 75 kilometre from the Southern most tip of Tripura. This arrangement will benefit the entire North-East. The possibility of movement of passengers and goods, especially of essential commodities from Calcutta through Bangladesh to Tripura and then to North-Eastern region to be explored by the Central Government expeditiously. The problem of landlocked Tripura, Mizoram, and major part of the North-East should be taken up by the Central Government with this pragmatic approach.