

Title: Need to take up the issue of opening of "Tetulia Corridor" with Bangladesh.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI): In the last Monsoon Session of Parliament, I had raised a question on the opening of "Tetulia Corridor" through the territory of Bangladesh for the mutual benefit of both the countries. For India, the proposed corridor is an urgent necessity especially for economic developments of entire North-East. It has also been a long-standing demand of the people of Jalpaiguri.

For the time being, India is having a period of the best of relations with Bangladesh. In the backdrop of the historic agreement with Bangladesh on sharing of "Ganga Waters" and opening of Tinbigha Corridor for Bangladesh through Indian territory wherein India has shown substantial magnanimity in its approach to Bangladesh. I find no reason why India should not propose the question of opening of Tetulia Corridor through the territory of Bangladesh for the mutual benefit of both the countries.

Through meaningful dialogue with Bangladesh, I think the Government of Bangladesh can be persuaded to show a good gesture to India and the proposed "Tetulia Corridor" can be opened for vehicular traffic through the territory of Bangladesh. While it is going to be hardly 3-4 kilometre of corridor it is going to shorten distance in all vehicular traffic to the North-East by about 85 kilometres. Economically too, it is going to raise revenue for both the countries.

I earnestly request you to seriously consider the proposal and put the matter on your agenda for discussion with Bangladesh.