

>

Title : Need to take suitable measures to boost border trade with Myanmar and Bangladesh

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (MIZORAM): The small North-Eastern State of Mizoram share a 404 kms. long international border with Myanmar and 318 kms. with Bangladesh. Before 1947, Mizoram, then called the Lushai Hills had a self-sufficient economy. Goods used to come from Bangladesh and Myanmar into Mizoram by road and by boat at several entry point and vice-versa. With the closure of all traditional routes of trade after independence, the Aizawl-Silchar highway on its northern border with Assam has been the only road linkage with the rest of the country. As such, the economy of Mizoram is severely constrained by poor communication, lack of infrastructural facilities and non-availability of market to see its agricultural and horticultural product.

In order to develop Mizoram's economy, it is imperative that border trade with its neighboring countries should be given a fillip. To raise the border trade to a significant level for Mizoram, impetus has to be given for the development of trade centre at Tlabung on the Western Boarder of Mizoram with Bangladesh and Zokhawthar on the Eastern Border with Myanmar by establishing new and improved existing infrastructural facilities like buildings, road, river linkages and upgrading existing facilities.

I, therefore, appeal to the concerned Ministries to hasten all necessary steps to bolster border trade with Myanmar and Bangladesh in the interest of Mizoram in particular and the nation as a whole.