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## Q. NO. 3871 AGREEMENT WITH BANGLADESH TO IMPROVE RAIL-ROAD LINKS

August 14, 2014

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3871
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.08.2014

AGREEMENT WITH BANGLADESH TO IMPROVE RAIL-ROAD LINKS

3871. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Bangladesh have entered into certain agreement to improve rail-road links to enhance trade and also get transit access through that country to bridge distance between the mountainous North Eastern States and rest of the country;
- (b) if so, whether it involves construction of rail links between the two countries by the Indian Government to achieve the objective; and
- (c) whether Ministry of Railways has signed certain agreements with the Bangladesh Government in the matter, if so, the details thereof?

## **ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) In September 2011, Governments of India and Bangladesh signed a Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development that envisages taking steps to facilitate trade by road, rail, inland waterways, air and shipping with the objective of promoting trade and people-to-people contacts across borders.

In addition, the Governments of India and Bangladesh entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for Development of Railway Infrastructure to Establish Rail Link between Agartala (India) and Akhaura (Bangladesh) in February 2013. The Detailed Project Proposal prepared by the Indian side for this rail link

is awaiting approval of Bangladesh. Opening the rail link is in line with our objective of promoting trade and people-to-people contacts across borders.



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Working hours at Headquarters 9:00 A.M. To 5:30 P.M.