

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 161
Date of Reply: 09/07/2026

Sub. : Trade Development of Mankachar Land Port.

Name of MLA : MD. MOHIBUR ROHMAN :

161. Will the Minister of Industries, Commerce and Public Enterprises Department be pleased to state:

- (a) What steps has been taken by the Government during the last three years to promote trade, industry and employment generation in South Salmara-Mankachar district ?
- (b) What is the present status of trade activities through the Mankachar Land Port ?
- (c) Whether the Government has any plan to improve trade and connectivity with Bangladesh through the Mankachar Land Port ? If so, the details thereof.
- (d) Kindly state the number of employment opportunities created through trade and commercial activities in the district during the last three years.

Answers

Shri Bimal Borah, Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Commerce and Public Enterprises, Assam will reply:

- a) During the last three years, Government of Assam has implemented schemes to promote trade, industry and employment generation. The major achievements are:
 - i. **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme:** 18 projects sanctioned (total ₹1.04 crore); Total subsidy approved ₹40.99 lakh.
 - ii. **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):** 39 projects sanctioned (Total ₹3.51 crore); subsidy Total ₹1.23 crore.
 - iii. **Chief Minister's Atmanirbhar Asom Abhijan (CMAAA) 1.0:** 206 beneficiaries received ₹1 lakh grant each; 86 beneficiaries received additional ₹1 lakh interest-free loan (2nd tranche).
 - iv. **Chief Minister's Atmanirbhar Asom Abhijan (CMAAA) 2.0:** 295 beneficiaries received ₹75,000 grant as 1st instalment; 9 professional beneficiaries received ₹2 lakh each.
 - v. **PM Vishwakarma:** 2,049 artisans were registered; 1,580 trained; 1,228 toolkits distributed; loans of ₹1.08 crore disbursed to 109 artisans.
 - vi. **Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI 2024):** 2 units were granted Registration Certificates.
 - vii. **Advantage Assam 2.0:** 40 No. of District Level MoUs signed involving ₹59.23 crore; 14 units involving ₹29.94 crore have commenced production.
- b) The Mankachar Land Port currently comprises a Land Customs Station (LCS) housed within the premises of the Border Trade Centre (BTC), Mankachar – which was initially developed and implemented under the ASIDE (Assistance to State for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied activities) scheme of Govt. of India. The

Mankachar Land Customs Station (LCS), set up in 1952, was shifted to the Border Trade Centre (BTC) campus in the early part of this decade.

Later, as per the concurrence of Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and subsequent approvals, the Govt. of Assam handed over the Border Trade Centre (BTC), Mankachar, along with all movable and immovable assets including land, building etc. to Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) in September, 2024 for establishing an Integrated Check Post (ICP) therein by improving the infrastructure, construction of requisite facilities, and housing all regulatory authorities (including customs, immigration, animal quarantine, plant quarantine, transshipment, etc.) under a single roof/ campus. The LCS as of now is functioning from the BTC campus under the overall jurisdiction of LPAI.

However, on account of the post-coup d'état turbulent situation in Bangladesh, import trade from Bangladesh through the land ports of the North Eastern Region (including Mankachar) was restricted by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry [*vide* its **Notification No. 07/2025-26 dated 17th May 2025** and **Notification No. 21/2025-26 dated 27th June 2025**]. The notifications together prohibited the import of certain goods [*viz.* (i) all kinds of Ready Made Garments; (ii) Fruit/ Fruit flavoured and Carbonated Drinks; (iii) Processed food items; (iv) Cotton and Cotton Yarn Waste; (v) Plastic and PVC finished goods, except pigments, dyes, plasticisers and granules that form input for own industries; (vi) Wooden Furniture; (vii) flax tow and waste (including yarn waste and garneted stock); (viii) jute and other textile bast fibres, raw and netted; (ix) jute (excluding flax, true hemp and ramie), (x) single flax yarn; (xi) single yarn of jute or of other textile bast fibres; (xii) multiple folded jute or other textile bast fibres; (xiii) woven fabrics or flex; and (xiv) unbleached woven fabrics of jute or of other textile bast fibres] through any Land Customs Stations (LCSs)/ Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram; and LCS Changrabandha and Fulbari, in West Bengal. However, the port restrictions didn't apply to the import of Fish, LPG, Edible Oil, and crushed stone from Bangladesh, and for export of Bangladesh goods to third countries like Nepal and Bhutan transiting through Indian Territory.

As per report received from the Land Ports Authority of India, and as per telephonic confirmation by its Manager (Golokganj), no export activities are presently being undertaken at ICP Mankachar w.e.f. 17.03.2026. As far as import operations are concerned, only 04 trucks have been cleared w.e.f. 01.04.2026 up to the current date.

As reported by Manager (Golokganj) on behalf of LPAI:

On 05 July 26, Port Administrator LPAI held a meeting with traders association regarding trade at ICP Mankachar. During the meeting, rep of traders association informed that existing road (Dhanua to Katahalbari) is badly damaged due to heavy rains and not fit for trucks movement however an alternative road (Pipulbari to Kukurmara) is in good condition but permission from local authorities are required for plying of trucks via quoted road .

In this context, DC, South Salmara Mankachar shall be directed accordingly. Besides, PWD Roads shall be requested to take up repair work at the earliest.

- c)** The Land Port at Mankachar, as already mentioned in the answer to Part (b), currently comprises a Land Customs Station (LCS) housed within the premises of the Border Trade Centre (BTC). The Border Trade Centre (BTC) was handed over to Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) in September, 2024 for establishing an Integrated Check Post (ICP) – which would house all regulatory authorities (including customs, immigration, animal quarantine, plant quarantine, transshipment, etc.) under a single roof/ campus. That would require the acquisition of more land extending up to the zero line of the international border.

However, on account of the fluid situation in Bangladesh, and restriction and uncertainty in the cross border trade through the Mankachar Land Port, not much progress could take place in the setting up of the ICP by LPAI since the handing over the BTC, Mankachar to it. Yet, the recent institution of a democratic Government in Bangladesh and the reported expectation of thaw in relations, LPAI has taken up the establishment of the ICP in right earnest.

As per report received from the Land Ports Authority of India, and as per telephonic confirmation by its Manager (Golokganj), the LPAI in its headquarters in New Delhi is preparing the plans (including design, mapping and estimation of cost and land requirement) for the setting up of the ICP. Once the plans are in place, LPAI is expected to approach the State Government for land acquisition and construction of a wide enough road to the border.

Once the ICP is established and becomes functional, and trade restrictions get lifted, the trade activity through the Mankachar Land Port is expected to grow by leaps and bounds. As per earlier estimates, there are several items of prospective items of export and import through that land port.

- d)** As per the Udyam Registration Portal, 90,431 employment opportunities have been generated through registered trade and commercial establishments in South Salmara-Mankachar district during the last three years.
