

Indian Missions/Posts abroad are readily accessible to all Indian citizens within their jurisdiction. The officials freely meet them with a view to provide assistance at the time of emergency. There is also a designated nodal officer in each Mission/Post abroad whose contact details/coordinates are prominently displayed in the concerned website/within the chancery premises to enable Indian citizens to contact them during emergencies round the clock. In all key Indian Missions/Posts abroad, a 24x7 Helpline has been established to deal with issues of an urgent nature. Indian nationals residing abroad are advised to register with the nearest Indian Mission/Post. This advice is also printed on the passports of Indian nationals. Missions/Posts also keep in close touch with Indian Community Associations and Groups in the countries of their accreditation.

A dedicated Community Welfare Wing has been established in many of the Indian Missions/Posts abroad, headed by a senior India-based officer to exclusively cater to Indian nationals in that country. These Wings are responsible for looking after all aspects of welfare of Indian nationals residing abroad.

#### **Road projects with neighbouring countries**

2423. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government has taken up the construction of India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway, Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) economic corridor, the Asian Highway (AH-1), and the reopening of Stilwell Road between India, Myanmar and China with China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Thailand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: Governments of India, Myanmar and Thailand had agreed to cooperate in the construction of India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway. Under this, Government of India is implementing two projects—(i) construction of 69 Bridges, including approach roads on Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa section and (ii) construction/upgradation of road on Kalewa-Yargi section of the Trilateral Highway in Myanmar.

Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar have agreed to establish a Joint Study Group (JSG) on strengthening connectivity in the BCIM region for closer economic, trade and people-to-people linkages through the development of a BCIM Economic Corridor (BCIM EC). Two meetings of the JSG have taken place so far and the joint study is underway.

India is party to the Inter Governmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network which was adopted in November 2003 and ratified by India in May, 2006. The Asian Highway (AH-1) is part of this network.

At present India is not engaged in any discussions with Myanmar and China on re-opening of Stilwell Road.