PREFACE

The Indo Myanmar Border Trade was started operation from 12th April, 1995. The Central government is making an effort to frame a policy for development of trade with South East Asia under India’s Look East Policy. In connection with the border trade, the then Union Minister of State visited Imphal and Moreh on 29th September, 2006 and announced for development of Moreh Town by creating an Integrated Check Post (ICP) adjacent to international boundary within Land Customs Station, Moreh. Myanmar has reaffirmed its pledge to boost ASEAN-India relations and close cooperation with other member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This was reiterated by the then Myanmar President U Thein Sein during the just-ended 20th ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi, reported Xinhua. “Myanmar valued the friendly ties that have long been existed between ASEAN and India as Myanmar is a neighbour of India and a member of ASEAN,” U Thein Sein told the summit. Minister of State for External Affairs, General Dr. VK Singh informed the Lok Sabha on 23th December, 2015 that the policy which was originally conceived as an economic initiative, has gained political, strategic and cultural dimensions including establishment of institutional mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation.

The ASEAN-India Plan of Action for the period 2016-2020 has been adopted in August, 2015 which identifies tangible initiatives and areas of cooperation along the three premises of Political-security, Economic and Socio-cultural. Efforts are being made to raise the trade volume between ASEAN and India up to $100 billion in 2015, while taking steps to foster relations of private sectors as well as small and medium enterprises. U Thein Sein has asked for increasing Indian investment in Myaukphyudeep seaport projects and other special economic zones, adding that there are still many untapped oil and gas deposits for Indian companies to invest. Putting huge
emphasis on infrastructural development projects to ensure connectivity in promoting regional trade, he cited the proposed extension to Laos and Cambodia of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Tripartite Highway project with the assistance of the Indian government. According to Thein Sein, Myanmar-India bilateral trade is increasing steadily in recent years with India standing as Myanmar’s fourth largest trading partner. In the fiscal year 2011-12, with a total trade volume of $1.37 billion, Myanmar’s export to India was $1.04 billion, up 20 percent from the previous year, while its import from India took $324.5 million, a 66.5 percent increase correspondingly. There are six Indian companies having invested in Myanmar with a total of 262 million dollars, Myanmar statistics was quoted as saying. Thein Sein also invited Indian entrepreneurs to do business in agriculture which is Myanmar’s main stay in economy. The two-day ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in the Indian capital marked the 20th anniversary of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership and the 10th anniversary of ASEAN-India Summit-level partnership, saying that he also hoped for the increase of commerce and trade activities with the northwestern neighbour. Meeting with President of Confederation of Indian Industry Adi Godrej during the visit to India for the summit, U Thein Sein said that Myanmar’s recently enacted new Foreign Investment Law will provide various degrees of privileges to potential investors in respect of tax and duty and guarantee protection of property and profit and rights of the investors. By opening a land custom station in Mizoram and in Rih of Myanmar in December 2006, the Indo-Myanmar border trade is also set to expand. The Border Roads Organization (BRO) is entrusted with the construction of a land custom at Zakhawthar (Mizoram) which is to become another gateway to ASEAN nations. At present, the only trade post of Moreh in Manipur is projected as the gateway to South Asian countries. The then Education minister M. Okendro on 30th Dec., 2015 covey that the Short Stay Home at Moreh College will construct to caters the needs of Myanmarese
students studying in the state. The ASEAN-India Trade Negotiating Committee has been tasked to undertake a review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement.

The study is divided into six chapters. Chapter I is an introductory chapter and it explores some of the conceptual and definitional aspects of industrialization and economic development. The role industry has to play in the process of economic development of a country has also been discussed in detail. Chapter II deals with a brief review of the economy of Manipur with the main emphasis being given on the Look East Policy. Chapter III analyses with Look East policy and its relevant issues – status, problems and challenges. Chapter IV concern on trade potentials and resources allocation of India’s north eastern states. Chapter V emphasize on interpreting on primary and secondary data sources. Lastly, chapter VI recommended some certain conclusions.

Place: 

Date: 

(Mr. Pukhrambam Chinglen Singh)