

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:302
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005
INDO-PAK TRADE LINKS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a decision to establish trade links across the Line of Control was taken between the Indian Foreign Secretary and his counterpart in Islamabad during the month of August, 2005;
- (b) whether the modalities for establishing such trade links have since been finalised;
- (c) If so, the details thereof; and
- (d) If not, the time by which the modalities are likely to be finalised?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 302 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2005 REGARDING INDO-PAK TRADE LINKS

(a) to (d): During the Foreign Secretary level talks in Islamabad on 1 and 2 September 2005 to review the progress of the second round of the Composite Dialogue, it was agreed to start a truck service for trade on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route. During Foreign Minister level talks in Pakistan, October 2-5, 2005, it was agreed an expert level meeting would be held before the end of this year to finalize modalities to initiate a truck service on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus route. The meeting has not taken place because the earthquake on 8 October 2005 has damaged the infrastructure on both sides of the Line of Control. The matter will be taken up once the infrastructure is restored.