

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2266
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Sudhakaran Shri K.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any discussion had taken place between India and China to increase the volume of trade through Nathula Pass;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to open Chinese Consulate in the southern region of the country to enhance trade and tourism with China; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) & (b) Bilateral trade through Nathula Pass was resumed in July 2006. The trade mart with customs and other facilities has been established at Sherathang. The trading period, which initially was from June to September, was extended to May to November in 2007. Border trade across Nathula has grown from Rs. 19.67 lakhs in 2006 to Rs. 137.9 lakhs in 2009. This mainly includes agricultural and related products such as maize, pulses, silk textiles, and mustard oil.

(c) & (d) The Chinese Consulates General operate from Mumbai and Kolkata respectively. No additional Chinese Consulates General are presently envisaged.