

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6103  
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010  
JOINT STUDY GROUP BETWEEN INDIA AND PAK  
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a Joint Study Group between India and Pakistan has been set up on Economic and Commercial Cooperation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievements made by the Study Group in this regard; and
- (c) the details of other steps being taken by the Government to facilitate economic and commercial cooperation with Pakistan?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Yes, Madam. A decision to set up such a Joint Study Group (JSG) was taken in November 2004.

(b) The Third meeting of India-Pakistan Joint Study Group (JSG) at Commerce Secretary Level was held in 2007 in New Delhi. The JSG inter alia discussed issues concerning trade liberalization, customs cooperation, Sanitary, Phyto – Sanitary measures and technical barriers to trade ,standards and conformance. The achievements include constitution of a Liaisoning Committee at Attari-wagah Border headed by an officer of the rank of Additional/Joint Commissioner which would meet once in two months, establishment of a Hotline contact between Customs Authorities of India and Pakistan, allowing movement of trucks across the border up to designated points at Wagah/Attari ,issuance of certification licences on a fast track basis by Bureau of Indian Standards to Pakistani Cement exporters which resulted in increase of cement imports by India. To resolve the infrastructural issues at the field level, an Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari is being constructed at a cost of about Rs. 150 Crore and the work of this ICP has been started in February 2010.

(c) Trade with Pakistan has been liberalised under the multilateral South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). Liberalised trade in Services is also envisaged under SAARC Agreement on trade in Services (SATIS).