GOVERNMENT OF INDIA COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1849 ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010 TRADE ON INDO PAK BORDER Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

(a) whether there has been increasing need to construct and open a second gate with adequate infrastructure for transit and trade between India and Pakistan in Attari Wagah border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has asked the External Affairs Ministry to take up the matter with Pakistan;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether both the countries have agreed for the second gate for increasing trade; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) to (f): During the technical level meeting between India and Pakistan to work out the modalities to allow cross border movement of trucks in August 2007, the two sides agreed, inter alia, that a dedicated cargo gate towards South-East of the existing Pakistan Customs House and South west of the existing India's customs House at the Attari /Wagha border shall be opened and upon completion of this cargo gate, all cargo traffic shall pass through it. Ministry of Home Affairs(Department of Border Management) is constructing an Integrated Check Post(ICP) at Attari. To facilitate smooth movement of persons and goods, government has proposed to open a second gate in Attari –Wagha border. Ministry of External Affairs(MEA) has been asked to take up the matter with Pakistan to resolve any bilateral issues involved in the matter. MEA has informed that the location that location plan for the second gate is to be exchanged in the forthcoming Technical Level meeting between India & Pakistan.