

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:62

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011

INDO PAK TALKS ON TRADE

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

- (a) whether there had been any high level meeting between India and Pakistan to give a trade push to resumption of dialogue between the two countries;
- (b) is so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total import and export of goods to Pakistan during each of the last three years, commodity-wise, quantity-wise and value-wise;
- (d) whether India has granted the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (e) whether there has been any assurance from the Government of Pakistan to accord the MFN status to India and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the benefit likely to accrue to India after the grant of this MFN status by Pakistan?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Bi-lateral trade and commerce talks were held between Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan on 27-28 April 2011, in Islamabad. The two sides, inter-alia, agreed to improve trade infrastructure and expand trade through Attari-Wagha land route. A Working Group was established to address and resolve clearly identified sector-specific barriers to trade. Both sides agreed to undertake new initiatives to enable trade in electricity and Bt. Cotton seeds as also expand trade in petroleum products. It was agreed that cooperation in Information Technology sector would be encouraged through the private sector. Both sides agreed to facilitate grant of Business Visas to encourage expansion of trade. Pakistan recognized that grant of MFN status to India would help in expanding bilateral trade relations. It agreed to replace its present 'Positive List' with 'Negative List', by October 2011.

(c) Trade data with Pakistan

(value in US \$ million)

Trade	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
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Export	1950.53	1439.88	1573.32
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Import	287.97	370.17	275.94
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Source: DGCI&S

Details regarding quantities of export and import to Pakistan during last 3 years (2007-08 to 2009-10) is given at Annexure.

- (d) Yes, India granted MFN status to Pakistan in 1995-96. This was in furtherance of decision to promote greater bilateral trade.
- (e) In the Commerce Secretary level talks of April 2011, Pakistan has recognized that grant of MFN status to India would help in expanding bilateral trade relations.
- (f) After the grant of MFN status by Pakistan to India, the bilateral trade is expected to increase substantially.