

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:576

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012

TRADE RELATION WITH PAKISTAN

Ajay Kumar SHRI ;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether any delegation from India have recently visited Islamabad to boost trade ties with Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether non-tariff barriers and expansion of tradable goods were discussed to normalize trade between the two countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of the progress made in respect of signing of agreements on redressal of trade grievances, bilateral cooperation and mutual assistance in customs related matters so far; and
- (f) the extent to which Pakistan has moved towards granting the most favoured nation status to India and phasing out the negative list?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

a) Yes, Madam.

b) A Commerce Secretary level delegation from India visited Pakistan on 20-21 September, 2012 to discuss commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries.

c) Yes, Madam.

d) For faster clearance of trade consignments, it was inter-alia decided that Land Custom Station at Attari-Wagah would operate seven days a week. Issues of non-tariff barriers such as delay in custom clearances, non-availability of railway wagons for cargo transport, absence of direct airflights, were also discussed. Both sides also discussed the need for expansion of tradable goods through liberalization of border trade and enhanced preferential trading arrangements through reduction of the respective SAFTA Sensitive Lists.

e) The agreements on redressal of trade grievances, bilateral cooperation and mutual assistance in customs related matters were signed during the 7th round of India-Pakistan talks on Commercial and Economic Co-operation held during 20-21 September 2012 at Islamabad.

f) The Commerce Ministers of India and Pakistan along with their official delegations, held a bilateral meeting on February 15, 2012. It had been agreed that Pakistan will move from a 'Positive List' to a small 'Negative List' by February 2012. The Negative List of 1209 items has been formally notified by the Government of Pakistan on 20th March, 2012.

It is expected that the complete phasing out of the Negative List before the end of 2012, would complete the transition to Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status for India, by Pakistan.