

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1738

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013

TRADE WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed its trade relations with Pakistan in the recent past and if so, the details thereof along with the total export and import carried out between the two countries during each of the last three years and the current year, item-wise;
- (b) whether India and Pakistan have imposed any restrictions/ban on the trade of certain items and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to improve the trade relations with Pakistan;
- (c) whether Pakistan has granted the Most Favoured Nation status to India and agreed to remove all restrictions on trade including opening up of the trade through land route at the Wagah-Attari border and if so, the details and the present status thereof along with the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to offer duty free market access to Pakistan similar to what is being offered to Bangladesh and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has permitted the setting up of border haats in the North-Eastern States and if so, the details thereof along with the number of such functional haats and the steps being taken to setup more such haats in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN)

(a) Bilateral trade dialogue with Pakistan was re-initiated with the 5th round of India-Pakistan Commerce Secretary level talks on "Commercial and Economic Co-operation" in April 2011. This was followed by further rounds of talks in November 2011 at Delhi and September, 2012 at Islamabad. Three Ministerial level dialogues were also held in September 2011, February 2012 and April 2012.

The trade data between India-Pakistan for last 3 financial years is as follows:

(Value in US \$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total Trade
2010-11	2039.53	332.51	2372.05
2011-12	1541.56	397.66	1939.21
2012-13	2064.79	541.87	2606.66
2013-14	950.35	211.90	1162.25

(April-Oct)

The items-wise details of export and import for the period 2013-14(April-October) are given in Annexure.

(b) Pakistan has a 'Negative List' of 1209 tariff lines against India. Pakistan allows import of 137 items only through land route of Attari-Wagha.

(c) Pakistan has not yet granted MFN status to India. Government of Pakistan has not been able to adhere to its commitments of removing the trade restrictions on the land route, as well as the granting of MFN status to India as agreed during the 7th Commerce Secretary level talks held in September 2012 at Islamabad.

(d) There is no such proposal.

(e) Government of India has operationalised two Border Haats in Meghalaya on India- Bangladesh border at Kalaichar and Balat allowing traditional system of trading in local currency and /or Barter basis. Both countries have agreed in-principle to establish four Border Haats at Kamla Sagar, Srinagar, Palbasti and Kamalpur in Tripura, on India- Bangladesh border .