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Title: Need to have accessibility of land route from Pakistan for transportation of goods from India to Afghanistan.

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA (GURDASPUR): Sir, I sincerely thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to raise a matter of very urgent public importance during Zero Hour. The talks initiated by the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the transit rate agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan culminated in Afghanistan, Pakistan trade agreement. This agreement enables the Afghan truckers to deliver their cargo at the Wagah Border, that is, at Amritsar and in return Afghanistan will provide transit facility to Pakistan to export its goods to Central Asia. It has been reliably learnt that Afghanistan has been demanding from Pakistan to allow access to India to use Pakistan land route for its goods to be transported to Afghanistan as also the supply of goods being sent as humanitarian aid to the war-ravaged country. If this request is acceded to by Pakistan, the delivery of goods would be faster and timely.

MR. CHAIRMAN ): Please put your demand.

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA : It will just take a second. Further, it will also reduce the freight cost of the material coming to Afghanistan via Pakistan as ready return loads. My request is to the Commerce Minister to take up this matter with his counterpart in Pakistan. If this is allowed by Pakistan, it will go a long way in boosting the Indo-Pak trade between both the countries. It will not only benefit India and Pakistan, it will benefit both Punjab also – the Punjab in India and the Punjab in Pakistan. This is my request to the Commerce Minister.