

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:95  
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003  
VISIT OF PAKISTAN TRADE DELEGATION  
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;GORDHANBHAI JAVIA

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

- (a) whether endeavour is being made by businessmen and industrialists of India and Pakistan for establishing friendly links with their counterparts;
- (b) if so, whether any delegations of businessmen and industrialists of Pakistan and India have visited each other's country during the current calendar year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of each delegation;
- (d) the details of issues discussed by these delegations and agreements signed by them during their visits; and
- (e) the extent to which both the countries are likely to be benefited thereby?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 95 FOR ANSWER 25.7.2003 REGARDING VISIT OF PAKISTAN TRADE DELEGATION

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To attend the Third Meeting of India-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IPCCI) held in New Delhi on July 7-8, 2003, a Pakistani delegation of businessmen and industrialists had visited New Delhi. Indian participants in the meeting included members of trade and industry in India.

(c) India-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IPCCI) was formed jointly by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), and Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) on April 10, 1999 after the historic maiden visit of Prime Minister of India to Lahore by bus in February, 1999. IPCCI was formed with the objective of strengthening bilateral economic relations and to provide a common officially recognised platform at the apex level for promotion of economic activities between businessmen and industrialists of the two countries. A Conference on India-Pakistan trade was also held on July 7, 2003 which was attended among others by Pakistan's High Commissioner-Designate for India. Inaugural address at this Conference was delivered by the External Affairs Minister. About 128 members from Pakistan and 112 members from India had participated in the meeting.

(d) Discussions were held to promote trade between India and Pakistan and to remove the bottlenecks. The joint recommendations of the meeting identified (i) enlargement of scope of goods and services traded; (ii) restoration of transportation and communication links; (iii) liberal visa facility for businessmen; and (iv) making SAARC effective as the major factors for promotion of trade and commerce.

(e) The interaction will help to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. However, no targets have been fixed.