

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4187
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005
OPENING BORDER POINTS
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to open some points on the Indo-Pak border in Punjab;
- (b) if so, the locations thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is chalking out any plans to start trade activities through these border points;
- (d) whether the Government has also received any proposals from Punjab to open Hussianiwala border for traffic and trade; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) - (e) It is the policy of the Government of India to promote trade and economic relations with Pakistan and encourage people to people contacts between the two countries.

In Punjab, Attari Road and Attari Rail are notified Land Customs Stations which are open for trade between India and Pakistan. Some requests have been received from Punjab for opening land border routes to Pakistan. Government would examine other routes after the implementation of the routes currently in the pipeline.