

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:290

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005

TRADE WITH PAKISTAN

Mehta Shri Alok Kumar;Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) the details of trade with Pakistan including export of sugar to Pakistan during the last six months alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom;
- (b) whether trade with Pakistan has increased consequent upon opening up of Indo-Pak border;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to further increase exports to Pakistan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 290 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2005 REGARDING TRADE WITH PAKISTAN

(a): Provisional figures of bilateral trade are available up to August, 2005 during this year according to which during the period April-August 2005 the total export from India to Pakistan has been valued at US\$ 240.55 million as compared to US\$210.17 million during the corresponding period in 2004 registering an increase of 14.45%. The imports from Pakistan during April-August 2005 has been valued at US\$.58.05 million as compared to US\$ 29.95 million during the corresponding period in 2004 registering an increase of 93.83%.

The ten top items exported from India to Pakistan during April-August 2005 are

- (1) Dyes/intermediates and coal tar chemicals
- (2) Petroleum crude & products
- (3) Oil meals
- (4). Drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals
- (5) Pulses
- (6) Rubber manufactured products except footwear
- (7) Iron ore.
- (8) Plastic & linoleum products
- (9) cotton raw including waste and
- (10) Inorganic/organic/agro- chemicals. There was no export of sugar.

The ten top items imported from Pakistan during the period are

- (1) Pulses,
- (2) Cotton yarn & fabrics ,
- (3) Fruits & nuts excluding cashew nuts,

- (4) Organic chemicals
- (5) Manmade filaments/Spun yarn,
- (6) leather,
- (7) non-ferrous metals,
- (8) raw wool
- (9) Spices and
- (10) Metaliferes Ores and Metal Scrap.

The details of exports and imports till 2004-2005 are available in Department's Website `www.commerce.nic.in under the head Information Dissemination/Monitoring System - Export Import Data Bank.

(b) and (c): In May 2005, Pakistan announced its decision to import twelve items on duty-free basis from India including through Attari-Wagah land route. These items consist of live animals, halal meats and agricultural items namely, Potatoes, Tomatoes, Onions and Garlic.

In August 2005 Pakistan included Sugar in their Positive List of importable items from India and allowed import of raw and refined sugars from India both by Public and Private Sectors including via land route, on duties and taxes as levied on its import from worldwide sources.

The trade (only export) with Pakistan through Land Customs Station (LCS), Attari Road has commenced from July 2005 and uptill now there has been no export of sugar. The details of items exported through this LCS since July 2005 are given below:

S.No. Commodity Quantity FOB value
(Metric Tonnes) (in lakhs of Rs.)

1	Garlic	938.70	202.18
2	Potato	526.500	39.75
3	Livestock	489 Nos.	7.66
4	Ginger	181.426	25.83
5	Frozen Halal	28.500	12.92
	Meat		
6.	Sugar	Nil	Nil

Total Value 288.34
(US\$ 0.63 million)

(d) India and Pakistan have set up a Joint Study Group (JSG) at the level of Commerce Secretaries to finalize the strategy for boosting trade between the two countries. The first meeting of the JSG was held in New Delhi on February 22-23, 2005 and it had detailed discussions on promotion of trade and economic cooperation for the mutual benefit of both countries. The JSG constituted two Working/Sub Groups, on Customs Cooperation and Trade Facilitation Measures and Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs). The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Sub-Groups were mutually agreed upon.

South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement (SAFTA), which was signed by the SAARC Member-States (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) during the Twelfth SAARC Summit held in Islamabad on 4-6 January 2004, is scheduled to come into force from 1st January 2006.

The process of talks under Joint Study Group and implementation of SAFTA are expected to boost bilateral trade in future significantly.