

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1008
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th DECEMBER, 2018

MFN STATUS TO PAKISTAN

1008. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK

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

- (a) whether India had extended Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status in international trade to Pakistan;
- (b) if so, when was the MFN status granted to Pakistan;
- (c) whether Government has made any decision whether to continue with this MFN status for Pakistan or to terminate it; and
- (d) whether Pakistan has extended MFN status to India?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d) Article 1 of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), 1994 requires every WTO member country to accord Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to all other member countries. Accordingly, India accorded MFN status to all WTO member countries, including Pakistan, from the date of entry into force of Marrakesh Agreement, establishing the WTO.

However, Pakistan is yet to transition fully to Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status for India. It maintains a Negative List of 1209 products which are not allowed to be imported from India. In addition, Pakistan permits only 138 products to be imported from India through Wagah/Attari border land route. In spite of these restrictions, India continues to maintain a substantial trade surplus with Pakistan.

No decision has been taken to review the MFN status accorded to Pakistan, so far.
