

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2150
ANSWERED ON- 18/12/2025

RESUMPTION OF BRODER TRADE THROUGH NATHULA

2150 SHRI DORJEE TSHERING LEPCHA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has conducted any recent review regarding the resumption, expansion or strengthening of border trade through Nathula and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken up, with the concerned authorities of neighbouring countries, the issues raised by the State Government of Sikkim relating to tourism, trade, border incidents or local livelihood concerns arising out of relations with China, Bhutan and Nepal; and
- (c) the details of support being extended by the Ministry to ensure that Sikkim's strategic, economic and development interests are safeguarded, in view of increasing geopolitical sensitivity in the region?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to c) India's existing bilateral arrangements with China designate three points for conducting trade between the two countries: Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand (Since 1992), Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh (Since 1995), and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim (since 2006). During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, trade through all these points was disrupted. During the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in August 2025, both sides agreed to the re-opening of border trade through the three designated trading points, including the Nathu La Pass in Sikkim. Government remains fully cognizant of the developmental interests of its border regions and makes all efforts to secure and promote them.
