

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4907
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th MARCH, 2018

BILATERAL TRADE ACROSS LOC

4907. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has begun a different kind of “cricket diplomacy” to boost the bilateral trade across the Line of Control (LoC) and as a major confidence-building measure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in this regard so far;
- (c) whether the list of tradable items has substantially expanded from the current 21 items which has mainly garments, handicrafts, carpets, agricultural items by allowing, among others, Kashmiri willow and the other items which could be included in the list are leather goods, spices, pulses, jams and fruit juices and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether these items were included among the probable trade items and the new list will include goods that can be exported to Pakistan mainly from Jammu & Kashmir to ensure that the State benefits economically and if so, the details and the status thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

(a) and (b) The cross Line of Control (LoC) trade is not considered as bilateral trade. It was started in 2008 as a part of Confidence Building Measures by India and Pakistan for trade between Jammu & Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Kashmir, in respect of 21 agreed items on barter system, on zero duty basis, through Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote routes. Initially, the trade was allowed for 2 days per week and consequent upon increase in volume of trade, trading days were increased to 4 days per week, with effect from 15.11.2011.

(c) No, Madam. Only the initial 21 items are still permitted for such trade. The review of cross LoC trade is taken up through the mechanism of India – Pakistan Joint Working Group on Cross-LoC Confidence Building Measures, which last met in March 2014.

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply to (c) above.
