

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1227

ANSWERED ON-06/02/2026

STATUS AND SAFEGUARDS OF BORDER TRADE

1227. MS. KANGNA RANAUT

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:-

(a) the current status of trade facilitation arrangements after discussions to resume border trade between India and China at Lipulekh, Shipki La and Nathu La;

(b) the safeguards proposed to ensure economic engagement along with national security considerations; and

(c) the proposed benefits for the local communities in Himachal Pradesh following resumption of border trade between India and China?

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 border 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 Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh.

Government remains fully committed to the development of its border regions and makes all efforts to secure and promote them.
