

Resolution moved by Mr. Firdous Ahmad Tak, Hon'ble MLC regarding Cross LoC trade and travel:

"This House unanimously resolves that the State Government will impress upon the Government of India for strengthening of cross LoC trade and travel and all efforts be taken up to remove the bottlenecks."

Reply:-

Cross LoC Trade

The cross LOC trade commenced in the year 2008 through Salamabad, Uri and Chakan-da-Bagh, Poonch. The trade is based on barter system in respect of the agreed list of 21 items on zero duty basis. Cross LOC trade is an important Confidence Building Measure (CBM) and is conducted on four days in a week. Two Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCs) at Chakkan-da-Bagh, Poonch and Salamabad, Uri have been set up to facilitate trade. At present, the cross LoC trade is being conducted as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Details of trade transacted yearwise since 2008 are given in Annexure-I.

The main issues pertaining to Cross LoC trade under consideration of the State and Central Governments are as under:-

- a. **Review of the agreed list of items:-** At present 21 items are approved for export and import (Annexure-II). However, there is a demand for inclusion of more items. Accordingly, Director, I&C, Kashmir has proposed 16 additional items and Director, I&C, Jammu has proposed 98 additional items. The matter is under consideration of the State Government and the list will be finalized soon and submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for appropriate action at their level.

- b. **Banking facility at TFC:-** The Cross LoC trade is being conducted on Barter System basis. Whereas, there is demand for banking facility so that the traders can make payments through banks. Although the matter has been discussed between the Governments of India and Pakistan, it is still unresolved.
- c. **Communication facilities:-** There is need for ISD telephone facility between J&K and PoK to facilitate the traders and officials. At a point of time earlier a few ISD telephone connections were provided to the officers and Industrial Associations. However, now the ISD facility has reportedly become non functional. The matter has been taken up with the MHA by the State Home Department by way of a proposal so that the BSNL is formally approached to provide a specific number of ISD telephone connections to the concerned officers and representatives of Industrial Associations.
- d. **Full body truck scanners:-** To ensure proper screening of goods imported and exported and for security purposes, it has been decided to install Full Body Truck Scanners (FBTS) at both the trading centres at Salamabad, Uri and Chakan-da-Bagh, Poonch. A team of experts and officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs has recently visited the sites at Chakan-da-Bagh, Poonch and Salamabad, Uri. The layout plan for installation of the FBTS has already been submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Procurement will be made through MHA.
- e. **Issue of visit permits:-** The Home Department has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs for issuance of Single Permit to the Traders for a limited period after conducting thorough on-ground verifications to facilitate meeting of the traders (Buyers & Sellers) from both sides. It has however been agreed that the present system in which traders from both sides of LOC are allowed to meet intermittently at zero point will continue. The concerned DCs/custodians shall facilitate such periodical meets of traders in future also.


- f. **Infrastructure development at TFCs:-** The proposals (DPRs) for upgradation of infrastructure at Salamabad, Uri for Rs.15.00 cr. and Chakan-da-Bagh for Rs.10.44 cr. have been received in the Industries & Commerce Department, and are being submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India very shortly. The new infrastructure will include construction of parking place, construction of 50 bedded (G+2) barrack and Medical First Aid Centre etc at Chakan-da-Bagh, Poonch and residential quarters for Custodian, TFO and staff, Guest House, Cargo Examination Hall, parking yard etc at Salamabad, Uri.

Cross LoC Travel

To promote people to people contact, fortnightly bus services on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route was started from April 7, 2005 and, thereafter, on Poonch-Rawalakot route from June 20, 2006, as a Confidence Building Measure (CBMs) between the two countries of India and Pakistan. Later in September, 2008 the fortnightly bus service was converted into a weekly service. At present, the cross LoC travel is being conducted as per the standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. As per latest information available, 9612 Indian nationals have visited PoK and similarly, 17820 PoK nationals have visited J&K through this facility.

To facilitate the cross LOC travel and make it more fruitful, the Home Department has submitted the following proposals to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India:-

- i. Enhancement of amount of cash to be carried by passengers travelling across LoC from the existing Rs.15,000/- to Rs.50,000/-.
- ii. On spot clearance of children upto 05 years of age accompanying their parents.


Under Secretary to Government
Industries & Commerce Department

Sd/-
Minister Incharge
I&C

Annexure-I

Trade Facilitation Centre, Salamabad, Uri

Year	Export			Import		
	Rs. in Indian Currency (in Crores)	No. of trucks	Qty in Quintals	Rs. in Pak Currency (in Crores)	No. of trucks	Qty in Quintals
21.10.2008 to 31.03.2009	1.3625	180	3987.31	-	219	7293.39
01.04.2009 to 31.03.2010	71.8046	1830	119004.75	92.4149	2662	193221.06
01.04.2010 to 31.03.2011	156.4756	3650	247235.20	260.4339	2413	159907.58
01.04.2011 to 31.03.2012	244.3543	4406	350079.81	407.7228	2960	201376.71
01.04.2012 to 31.03.2013	324.7251	7519	623871.57	566.7489	4119	298490.43
01.04.2013 to 31.03.2014	272.3884	5152	434019.98	405.2695	3299	238612.73
01.04.2014 to 20.02.2015	339.1293	5055	438639.11	528.3416	2255	149783.61
Total	1410.2398	27792	2216137.73	2260.9316	17927	1248685.51

Trade Facilitation Centre, Chakan Da Bagh

Year	Export			Import		
	Rs. In Indian currency	No. of trucks	Qty in Quintals	Rs. In Pak Currency	No. of trucks	Qty in Quintals
21.10.2008 to 31.03.2009	34,51,486	42	1534.76	54,63,545	23	185.50
01.04.2009 to 31.03.2010	68,24,76,513	1492	142921.76	1,21,62,67,025	1560	59196.53
01.04.2010 to 31.03.2011	92,92,56,112	1836	133443.72	1,76,16,82,975	1626	1133377.36
01.04.2011 to 31.03.2012	74,88,43,111	2020	115192.60	1,25,13,88,511	1255	167158.46
01.04.2012 to 31.03.2013	47,96,73,394	1514	144890.29	91,00,39,104	905	491755.27
01.04.2013 to 31.03.2014	75,20,43,792	2151	190587.17	1,08,35,25,075	1231	114334.05
01.04.2014 to 28.02.2015	1,19,69,39,469	3302	288110.45	1,82,52,17,995	1234	168085.32
Total	4,79,26,83,877	12357	1016680.75	8,03,35,84,230	7834	1114092.49

Annexure-II

Agreed List of tradable items as per SOP

Export	Import
1. Carpets	1. Rice
2. Rugs	2. Jahnamaz and Tasbies
3. Wall hangings	3. Precious stones
4. Shawls and stoles	4. Gabbas
5. Namdas	5. Namdas
6. Gabbas	6. Peshawari leather chappals
7. Embroidery items including Crewel	7. Medicinal Herbs
8. Furniture including walnut furniture	8. Maize and maize products
9. Wooden handicrafts	9. Fresh fruits and vegetables
10. Fresh fruits and vegetables	10. Dry fruits including Walnuts
11. Dry fruits including walnuts	11. Honey
12. Saffron	12. Moongi
13. Aromatic plants	13. Imlı
14. Fruit bearing plants	14. Black Mushrooms
15. Dhanıa, Moongi, Imlı and Black Mushrooms	15. Furniture including walnut furniture
16. Kashmiri spices	16. Wooden handicrafts
17. Rajmah	17. Carpets and rugs
18. Honey	18. Wall hangings
19. Papier Machie products	19. Embroidery items
20. Spring, Rubberised Coir/Foam Mattresses, Cushion, pillows & quilts	20. Foam Mattresses, Cushions and pillows
21. Medicinal Herbs	21. Shawls and stoles