

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

Rajya Sabha

MFN STATUS TO INDIA BY PAKISTAN

New Delhi, August 6, 2014

The Commerce Ministers of India and Pakistan met on 18th January 2014 on the sidelines of the 5th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave held at New Delhi. Both Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to expeditiously establish normal trading relations and in this context to provide Non-Discriminatory Market Access (NDMA), on a reciprocal basis. Both sides decided to intensify and accelerate the process of trade normalization, liberalization and facilitation and to implement the agreed measures before the end of February 2014.

At various fora, senior functionaries of Government of Pakistan and representatives of a few trade and industry bodies in Pakistan have voiced concerns about the so-called Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in India and have also raised apprehension that opening up of trade with India will harm certain segments of Pakistan's economy.

1209 tariff lines have been kept in the 'Negative List' by Pakistan. Major sectors included in the Negative List of Pakistan are Auto, Steel, Paper & Boards, Plastics, Textiles, Electrical Machinery and Pharma.

India negotiated abolition of Negative List by Pakistan during Commerce Secretary level talks held on 20-21 September, 2012 in Islamabad.

The information was given by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in a written reply in Rajya Sabha today.

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