

18	Written Answers to	[RAJYA SABHA]	Starred Questions
1	2	3	4
28	West Bengal	290.62	4.59
29	Delhi	802.94	55.81
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10.37	0.06
31	Chandigarh	20.43	0.51
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.17	0
33	Daman and Diu	0.73	0
34	Lakshadweep	0	0
35	Puducherry	20.65	4.62
TOTAL		7057.29	1009.00

2. The Union Government has been issuing instructions to the States for speedy and proper implementation of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 from time to time at appropriate levels. Instructions were issued under section 60 of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 by the Union Secretary (Labour and Employment) on 27.09.2010. Union Minister of Labour and Employment has also written to the Chief Ministers of the States/UTs in April, 2010 and recently on 5th June, 2012 requesting them to take steps for collecting and utilizing cess and implementing the Acts. Union Secretary (Labour and Employment) has also written to Chief Secretaries of the States/UTs on 29th June, 2012 suggesting, *inter-alia*, to take steps for accelerating registration of workers, drawing out strategies for implementing model schemes of the Central Government and utilizing welfare funds for vocational training and skill development of the construction workers and their children.

MFN status given to India by Pakistan

*349. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Pakistan has put India in the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) list to boost trade between the two countries;

- (b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to sell electricity to Pakistan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) With regard to Most Favoured Nation status for India, a decision was taken in the cabinet meeting of Pakistan and communicated through the Press Release of Pakistan Government dated 2nd November, 2011. This states that "the (Pakistan) Cabinet gave Ministry of Commerce the mandate to take the process of normalization forward, which would culminate in the observance of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principle in its true spirit".

The Commerce Ministers of India and Pakistan along with their official delegations, held a bilateral meeting on February 15, 2012. It had been agreed that Pakistan will move from a 'Positive List' to a small 'Negative List' by February, 2012. The Negative List of 1209 items has been formally notified by the Government of Pakistan on 20th March, 2012.

It is expected that the complete phasing out of the Negative List before the end of 2012, would complete the transition to Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status for India, by Pakistan.

(c) and (d) In the Fifth round of Commerce Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan held in Islamabad on 27-28th April, 2011, it was decided to undertake a new initiative to enable trade of electricity between both countries. In this context a group of experts from both sides has been set up to examine feasibility, scope and modalities of such trading. First meeting of the Group of Experts was held in October, 2011 at New Delhi and the second meeting was held at Islamabad on August 02, 2012.

Expert group explored the possibility of interconnection at both sides and discussed probable points for interconnection. It was of the view that a cross border electricity interconnection would be of mutual benefit to both countries. Further technical and commercial details are yet to be worked out.

Training of Sri Lankan armed forces in India

*350. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: