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Trade across LoC resumes

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Trade across the Line of Control through the Poonch-Rawalakote route resumed today after remaining suspended for two weeks.

Items worth Rs 6.31 lakh were exported by Indian traders to Rawlakote in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) today and items worth Rs 98.28 lakh were imported from the PoK.

Out of the 23 truckloads of chilli exported to the PoK, 21 trucks were returned by PoK traders to Jammu and Kashmir. Indian traders also sent back three truckloads of potatoes out of the 11 trucks. The PoK traders alleged that the imported chilli was of low quality and had been banned by the PoK government in June

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— Abdul Hamid, Trade Facilitation Officer, Poonch

last year. The Indian traders also sent back three trucks of potatoes, alleging that the imported potatoes were of low quality.

Only one truck of chilli powder was accepted by the PoK traders and eight truckloads of almonds, dry dates, dry grapes and herbs were accepted by the Indian traders.

The trade had been suspended by the PoK traders to protest the imposition of additional tax on the export and import of goods. It was resumed after higher

authorities assured the traders in the PoK that their demands would be considered shortly.

Abdul Hamid, Trade Facilitation Officer, Poonch, said, “After the PoK banned chilli last year, we sent samples of ‘fadki’ chilli to the PoK for testing. They found out that it had some disease, but the traders continued to export it, as it was between the traders only.”

“Today the PoK traders categorically refused to accept fadki chilli,” the Trade Facilitation Officer said.