

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2598
ANSWERED ON 11/08/2023

BENEFITS OF MARKET ACCESS UNDER CEPA

2598. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to extend Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with countries other than United Arab Emirates (UAE) as well;
- (b) if so, the details of countries who will be a part of this agreement in future and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has any information on the quantum of benefit from preferential market access provided by UAE under the CEPA; and
- (d) if so, the comparative details of the increase in total value of such benefits for the Financial Year 2022-23 due to the CEPA?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b): India is currently negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the United Kingdom, the European Union, European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Canada. Negotiations for FTAs are entered into with trading partner countries primarily with the aim to increase the bilateral trade through enlarging the scope of market access and the trade complementarities thereof, the geo-strategic importance, etc.

(c) & (d): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has provided preferential market access on over 97% of its tariff lines, which account for 99% of Indian exports to the UAE in value terms, and include products from labour intensive sectors such as gems & jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural and wood products. Similarly, in services, the UAE has allowed market access to India in around 111 sub-sectors from the 11 broad service sectors.

During the Financial Year 2022-23, India's exports to the UAE have grown by 11.8%. Key sectors which have shown increased exports from India under India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) are mineral fuels & their products, electrical machinery & equipment, gems & jewelley, automobiles, essential oils & resinoids, perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations, machinery & mechanical appliances and cereals.
