

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2603
ANSWERED ON 11/08/2023

RE-EXAMINATION OF FTAs

2603. SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:
SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) whether most Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) signed by India previously have become counterproductive;
- (b) if so, details of such FTAs;
- (c) whether Government has re-examined all the FTAs and is in the process of engaging in newer ones to benefit India;
- (d) if so, key findings and recommendations thereof and by when it will be tabled in Parliament; and
- (e) the new FTAs India has negotiated along with negotiations with EU, US and with UK, how are these expected to benefit India after Brexit and how have they benefitted India and market access expected to gain in agriculture sector?

ANSWER

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

(a) to(e): India has signed 13 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and 6 Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) with its trading partners. A list of these FTAs and PTAs is at Annexure. The Government is closely monitoring these FTAs and based on stakeholder consultations, the experience and assessments thereof, the Government is in the process of reviewing its existing FTAs with ASEAN and Korea. The Government is also currently negotiating FTAs with the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom (UK), European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Canada. FTA negotiations or its review are a long-drawn process and the timeline for completion of such negotiations cannot be predicted since the parties to the negotiations are required to agree to the outcome.

The Government enters into FTA with its trading partners considering various factors such as leveraging comparative advantages and the market access thereof for Indian products including those from agriculture sector, the trade complementarities, the strategic relationship, promotion of cooperative and collaborative activities as well as the domestic sensitivities. The benefits under FTA in terms of exports or competitive and diversified imports depends on a number of factors including externalities like the domestic industrial growth, domestic consumption trajectory, growth in partner country etc.

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2603 for answer on 11.08.2023

Annexure

List of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
1	India - Sri Lanka FTA	28 th December, 1998	1 st March, 2000
2	Agreement on SAFTA (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives and Afghanistan)	4 th January, 2004	1 st January, 2006 <i>(Tariff concessions implemented from 1st July, 2006)</i>
3	India Nepal Treaty of Trade	27 th October, 2009	The Treaty has been extended for a further period of 7 years and is currently in force till 26 th October 2023.
4	India - Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit	17 th January, 1972	Renewed periodically, with mutually agreed modifications. Agreement dated 29 th July 2006 was valid for 10 years. With mutual consent, the validity was extended for a period of one year or the period till the proposed new Agreement comes into force. The renewed Agreement has been signed on 12.11.2016 and came into force with effect from 29 July 2017, for a period of 10 years.
5	India - Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)	9 th October, 2003	1 st September, 2004
6	India - Singapore CECA	29 th June, 2005	1 st August, 2005
7	India - ASEAN- CECA - Trade in Goods, Services and Investment Agreement (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)	13 th August, 2009 for goods and November 2014 for Services and Investment	Goods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st January 2010 in respect of India and Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand. • 1st June 2010 in respect of India and Vietnam. • 1st September 2010 in respect of India and Myanmar. • 1st October 2010 in respect of India and Indonesia. • 1st November 2010 in respect of India and Brunei. • 24 January 2011 in respect of India and Laos. • 1st June 2011 in respect of India and the Philippines. • 1st August, 2011 in respect of India and Cambodia. Services and Investment 1 July, 2015
8	India - South Korea CEPA	7 th August, 2009	1 st January, 2010
9	India - Japan CEPA	16 th February, 2011	1 st August, 2011
10	India - Malaysia CECA	18 th February, 2011	1 st July, 2011
11	India - Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)	22 nd February, 2021	1 st April, 2021
12	India-UAE CEPA	18 th February, 2022	1 st May 2022

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
13	India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA)	2 nd April, 2022	29 December 2022.

List of Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
1	Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) (Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka)	July, 1975 (revised on 2 nd November, 2005)	1st Nov, 1976
2	Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) (Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe)	13 th April, 1988	19 th April, 1989
3	SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA) (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka)	11 April, 1993	7 December, 1995
4	India - Afghanistan	6 th March, 2003	13 th May, 2003
5	India – MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay)	25 th January, 2004	1st June, 2009
6	India - Chile	8 th March, 2006	11 th September, 2007. The agreement has been expanded on 6 th September, 2016 and came into force w.e.f. 16 th May, 2017.
