

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2606
ANSWERED ON 11/08/2023

NEGOTIATION ON BILATERAL FREE TRADE

2606. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of countries are approaching India for negotiating bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to boost economic ties;
- (b) whether Government is looking at ways to increase its bandwidth by negotiating bilateral free trade agreements with countries that are approaching Government for the purpose; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): India has so far signed 13 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and 6 Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) with its trading partners. In addition, the Government is currently negotiating FTAs with the European Union (EU), United Kingdom (UK), European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Canada. Though other trading partners have been requesting for entering into FTA negotiations, the Government enters into FTA negotiations after consultations with the concerned stakeholders, in particular, the relevant Ministries/Departments and considering the requirement of market access and the trade complementarities, the strategic relationship, the cooperative activities as well as the domestic sensitivities etc. The Government has been resorting to need based augmentation of its resources to meet any functional requirements under the negotiations.
