

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1315
ANSWERED ON 02/08/2024

TRADE WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

1315. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) the volume of two way trade with India's immediate neighbours for the last five years;
- (b) the average annual volumes and value of trade that are over land and is there scope to improve or de-bottleneck;
- (c) experience of Government with regional Free Trade Agreements with neighbouring countries;
- (d) whether volumes increased under them or under Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC); and
- (e) whether any new measures in trade is being explored by Government in the neighbouring countries?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) India's immediate neighbours are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The volume of two way trade (import and export) with immediate neighbours for the last 5 years is USD 676.6 Bn.

(b) The average annual volume is 47,51,798 MT and value of over land trade (import and export) is INR 1,19,339 Cr in the last 5 years. Efforts are being taken to improve border trade infrastructure with neighbouring countries which, inter-alia, include upgradation/ modernization of Land Customs Stations, establishment of Integrated Check Posts and Border haats etc.

(c) and (d) The regional Free Trade Agreements like SAPTA, SAFTA, APTA and AITIGA have resulted in facilitation of trade, elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade, promotion of economic cooperation and integration among member countries.

The volume of trade has increased over the years under the above mentioned agreements. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) has not been signed yet, therefore, no trade is regulated under BIMSTEC.

(e) India and Sri Lanka are negotiating Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) which covers both goods and services. The Government continues to engage with neighbouring countries to strengthen trade and economic relations through established institutional mechanisms. Efforts are also being taken to improve trade infrastructure including upgradation/modernization of Land Customs Stations, establishment of Integrated Check Posts/Border Haats etc.
