

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3230
ANSWERED ON 28/03/2025

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA IN FTA NEGOTIATIONS

3230. SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) the key challenges and opportunities for India in negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with other nations, particularly in the context of growing protectionism and trade tensions and the manner in which these agreements can be leveraged to boost India's exports and economic growth; and
- (b) the manner in which Government can address concerns around trade deficits and ensure that India's trade agreements benefit domestic industries and workers, particularly in the context of growing automation and technological changes?

ANSWER

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

(a) Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with concerned trading partner countries aim to expand market access, trade in goods and services and enhance investments. FTAs leverage trade complementarities to boost exports and drive sustainable economic growth through trade facilitation, technical and digital collaborations and global competitiveness. While negotiating FTAs, endeavour is to deliver a comprehensive, balanced, broad-based and equitable agreement based on the principle of fairness and reciprocity that offers protection to domestic industry and benefit to the stakeholders.

(b) For addressing concerns related to trade deficits and ensuring that India's trade agreements benefit domestic industries and workers, sector-specific consultations are carried out. For this, FTAs cover trade in goods, services, movement of natural persons, customs procedures, trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade, etc. FTAs also provide for maintaining negative or exclusion lists of items on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted. In addition, in the case of surge in imports, a country is allowed to take recourse to trade remedial measures such as anti-dumping and safeguards on imports.
