

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3235**  
ANSWERED ON 28/03/2025

**PROTECTION OF FARMERS INTERESTS IN TRADE AGREEMENTS**

3235. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) the manner in which Government is responding to United States (US) pressure to lower agricultural tariffs;
- (b) the status of India's negotiations with the United Kingdom (UK) and European Union (EU) on trade deals related to agriculture; and
- (c) whether Government will protect Indian farmers' interests in future trade agreements?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) The Government of India continues to engage with the Government of United States to achieve enhancement and broadening of bilateral trade ties in a mutually beneficial and fair manner. Both nations released a joint statement on February 13, 2025, reaffirming their commitment to deepening economic ties. Under the ambitious "Mission 500", both countries aim to more than double US-India trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 to be achieved by deepening the trade relationship across multiple sectors. Both countries have committed to negotiate a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement under which the countries would focus on increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, enhancing supply chain integration and resolving key trade issues bilaterally.

(b) India and UK Free Trade Agreement Negotiations (FTA) were launched on 13th January 2022. 14 rounds of negotiations have been held so far. Negotiations were paused by UK side in May 2024 owing to their elections. Both Prime Ministers met on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November 2024 and underlined the importance of resuming trade negotiations at an early date. The Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department for Business and Trade of the United Kingdom visited New Delhi during 24-25 February 2025 and held meetings with Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry of India. The two Ministers jointly announced the resumption of India-UK Free Trade Agreement negotiations on 24th February 2025.

India and the European Union (EU) commenced Free Trade Agreement negotiations in June 2022. 10 rounds of negotiations have been held till March 2025.

(c) In order to protect the interests of the Indian farmers and the agriculture sector, trade agreements provide for maintaining sensitive, negative or exclusion lists of items on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted. In addition, in case of surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take recourse to trade remedial measures such as anti-dumping and safeguards on imports within the period as mutually agreed to by the parties under the trade agreements.

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