GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1473
ANSWERED ON 31/07/2026

INDIA-EFTA TRADE AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

1473. SHRI RAJINDER GUPTA
SMT. SEEMA DWIVEDI
SHRI NARESH BANSAL
DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI

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

(a) the details of progress made in the implementation of the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), including the investment commitments received under the agreement;

(b) the mechanism established to monitor the commitment of a 100 billion USD investment over a period of 15 years; and

(c) the details of steps taken to promote India's exports to EFTA countries?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) States, namely Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, was signed on 10th March 2024 and entered into force on 1st October 2025. TEPA is India's first trade agreement with the EFTA States and India's first operational trade arrangement with a European economic bloc.

Under TEPA, the EFTA countries have committed to promote foreign direct investments by USD 100 billion in India in the next 15 years, and to facilitate the generation of 1 million direct employment in India, through such investments.

(b) The Government has established robust facilitation mechanisms to monitor the commitment. A dedicated India-EFTA Desk has been launched in February 2025 to function as a single-window platform for EFTA businesses looking to invest, expand, or establish operations in India. This Desk provides structured support, including market insights, regulatory guidance, business matchmaking, and assistance in navigating India's policy landscape, thereby ensuring transparency and ease of doing business. Furthermore, the TEPA itself establishes a Sub-Committee on Investment Promotion and Cooperation under Chapter 7. This institutional body, comprising government representatives of the Parties, is mandated to oversee, review, and monitor the implementation of the investment promotion chapter, including the progress towards achieving the shared objectives on investment and job creation.

(c) Following the operationalization of the India–EFTA TEPA, sustained outreach initiatives and high-level engagements have been undertaken in coordination with Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Trade Bodies and Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) to actively promote the Agreement and translate its provisions into concrete trade and investment partnerships. The Government has taken steps to enhance exporters' awareness of the Agreement, particularly with respect to the Rules of Origin, compliance requirements, and procedures for availing preferential market access under TEPA. Social Media platforms have also been actively used to disseminate the tariff gains for Indian exports under the Agreement. The issues relating to enhancement of bilateral trade, investment and institutional cooperation are also regularly taken up during high-level bilateral engagements with the EFTA countries.

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