

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2481
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.11.2016**

TRADE WITH SAARC COUNTRIES

†2481. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL “NISHANK”:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of bilateral trade with various SAARC countries during the last five years and the country-wise and amount-wise details in this regard;**
- (b) the amount of grant/assistance provided by India to these countries during the last five years;**
- (c) the names of the countries where joint venture projects are being set up and the cost thereof; and**
- (d) the number of students of various SAARC countries being given education grant/scholarship by the Government?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

- (a) The quantum of bilateral trade with various SAARC countries during the last five years and the country-wise and amount-wise details in this regard is as under:**

Source: DGCI&S data base

S No.	Name of Country	Trade Year-wise (figures in USD million)				
		2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
1	India-Afghanistan	834.50	684.47	683.10	632.18	643.94
2	India-Bangladesh	6762.10	7072.85	6651.30	5784.32	4374.94

3	India-Bhutan	750.22	483.81	507.77	397.22	432.41
4	India-Maldives	183.33	156.70	110.05	128.65	143.51
5	India-Nepal	4400.67	5198.68	4122.23	3631.94	3271.45
6	India-Pakistan	2612.18	2354.60	2701.18	2606.75	1903.50
7	India-Sri Lanka	6052.32	7459.89	5201.27	4609.68	4956.83
India-SAARC Total		21595.42	23411	19976.9	17790.74	15726.58

(b) The amount of grant/assistance provided by India to these countries during the last five years:

S No.	Name of the SAARC Country	Grant/Assistance provided by India during last five years (figures in INR in crore)
1	Afghanistan	3,805.53
2	Bangladesh	635.17
3	Bhutan	18,401.189
4	Maldives	164.64
5	Nepal	14,78.27
6	Pakistan	nil
7	Sri Lanka	17,54.8

(c) The names of the countries where joint venture projects are being set up and the cost thereof:

Joint ventures have been set up by Indian PSUs and private companies in various sectors in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. Some of the notable JV projects and their cost wherever available is given below:

Bangladesh:

- **The Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Limited (BIFPCL) is a 50:50 JV of NTPC and Bangladesh Power Development Board for the setting up of a 1,320 MW coal-fired super critical thermal power plant named the “Maitree super thermal plant” at Rampal, Bagherhat district,**

Bangladesh. The estimated cost of the project is USD 1.68 billion.

- **Hero MotoCorp Limited is setting up a plant in Bangladesh in a joint venture with Niloy Motors Limited of Bangladesh); approximate investment of USD 30 million**
- **LIC Bangladesh is jointly promoted by LIC India, Strategic Equity Management Limited (an asset management company in Bangladesh) and Mutual Trust Bank, Bangladesh.**
- **Tata Motors is in Bangladesh in partnership with Nitol Group.**
- **CEAT Tyres Limited is investing in Bangladesh in a joint venture with A. K. Khan & Company Ltd of Bangladesh.**
- **Godrej Agrovet Ltd of India entered into a joint venture with ACI Limited, Dhaka to form ACI Godrej Agrovet Private Ltd in 2004.**
- **Dabur India has set up a joint venture company, Asian Consumer Care Ltd., with ACI Limited, Dhaka.**

Bhutan:

600 MW Kholongchu HEP is the first HEP in Bhutan to be implemented under the Joint Venture model, by a JV-company between Druk Green Power Corporation(DGPC) of Bhutan and SJVN Ltd. of India. The estimated cost of the project is 3868.8 crore(June 2013 Price level). Three other JV projects have been agreed upon- 770 MW Chamkharchhu, 570 MW Wangchhu and 180 MW Bunakha HEPs.

Nepal:

Indian firms are the largest investors in Nepal, accounting for about 40% of the total approved foreign direct investments. The Indian private sector and PSUs are engaged in the development of two important hydro- electric projects viz. Upper Karnali and Arun III each of 900 MWs, which would result in additional investment to Nepal of about US \$ 2 billion. There are about 150 operating Indian ventures in Nepal. They are engaged in manufacturing, services (banking, insurance, dry port, education and telecom), power sector and tourism industries.

(d) Number of students of various SAARC countries being given education grant/scholarship by the Government is given below:

SN	Country	No of Students
1.	Afghanistan	2139
2.	Bangladesh	202
3.	Bhutan	1165
4.	Maldives	64
5.	Pakistan	nil
6.	Nepal	3000
7.	Sri Lanka	334
