

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2164(H)**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 01<sup>st</sup> JANUARY, 2018**

**TRADE WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES**

2164(H). SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the main features of Indian trade with neighbouring countries;
- (b) the details of India's trade relations with these countries during the last three years;
- (c) the details of the possibility of strengthening India's trade relations with neighbouring countries; and
- (d) the details of the measures to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

- (a) On account of various factors, including its geographical size and population, diversified and mature economy, size of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) etc, India occupies a pre-eminent position in its trade with the South Asia region. India has accepted asymmetrical responsibilities and provided duty free access to almost all the products (except a few products pertaining to alcohol and tobacco) from Least Developed Countries, under Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA).
- (b) The value of India's trade (exports and imports) with the neighbouring/SAARC countries from 2014-15 to 2016-2017 and for the current year i.e. 2017-18, as available upto October, 2017, is given below:

Country	Values in US \$ Million							
	2014-2015		2015-16		2016-17		2017-2018 (April-October) (Provisional)	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
South Asia								
Afghanistan TIS	422.56	261.91	526.60	307.90	506.34	292.90	397.43	235.31
Bangladesh PR	6,451.48	621.37	6,034.94	727.15	6,820.13	701.68	4,206.70	319.67
Bhutan	333.94	149.87	468.95	281.27	509.28	307.82	260.58	201.07
Maldives	152.38	4.32	179.04	4.29	197.79	9.17	113.60	3.45
Nepal	4,558.77	639.91	3,930.09	470.59	5,453.59	445.13	3,305.98	233.24
Pakistan IR	1,857.29	497.31	2,171.16	441.03	1,821.88	454.49	850.08	298.70
Sri Lanka DSR	6,703.72	756.17	5,309.53	742.79	3,913.15	602.20	2,413.28	407.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,480.14</b>	<b>2,930.85</b>	<b>18,620.32</b>	<b>2,975.01</b>	<b>19,222.18</b>	<b>2,813.40</b>	<b>11,547.64</b>	<b>1,698.76</b>

(c) and(d): For increasing intra-regional trade in South Asia, the Government has taken various steps to improve the trade infrastructure with neighbouring / SAARC countries which, inter-alia, include upgradation of Land Customs Stations, establishment of Integrated Check Posts/Border Haats, facilitation of bilateral and sub-regional connectivity, etc. Trade liberalisation is being carried out under SAFTA by India/ other SAARC countries to encourage greater trade. The Government continues to engage pro-actively with SAARC countries to strengthen trade and economic relations. Bilateral and multilateral trade discussions, held with these countries from time to time, also explore mechanisms for enhancement of trade. Further, assistance is provided under Market Access Initiative(MAI) to Indian exporters, Export Promotion Councils, apex trade bodies etc., for participation in events in foreign countries, including countries in neighbourhood.

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