

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1389
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05th MARCH, 2018

BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

1389. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:

SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

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

- (a) whether India has signed bilateral trade agreements with various countries;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features of the agreements signed during the last three years;
- (c) whether India and Bangladesh have recently held detailed discussions in Dhaka to boost bilateral trade and investments and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether both the countries have also deliberated upon expansion of border haats, identification and resolution of nontariff issues affecting bilateral trade and ease of investment and if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to boost trade between India and Bangladesh?

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)&(b) The details of the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements (CECAs) and Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPA) and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) entered into by India is given in **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II** respectively. India has not entered into any new Free Trade Agreement (FTA) or Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in the last three years. However, India expanded the scope of the India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement in November, 2014 to cover both Services and Investment which got implemented on 1st July 2015. The Agreement on Investment aims to create a liberal, facilitative and competitive investment

regime in the region among the participating countries to support and contribute to economic growth, development and regional integration. The agreement on Services provide business certainty to service providers from both India and ASEAN countries and is expected to strengthen the business and commercial relations between the two. In addition, India and Chile expanded the existing PTA to include new additional lines of interest to each other. The India-Chile Expanded PTA came into force on 16 May, 2017.

- (c)&(d): Commerce Secretary level meeting between India and Bangladesh was held on 7th-8th February 2018 at Dhaka. In the meeting, both sides had extensive discussions on a variety of issues concerning bilateral trade and economic relations, including, inter-alia, up-gradation of infrastructure at border trading points, non-tariff issues affecting bilateral trade such as mutual recognition of test certificates, removal of port restrictions, the operation of existing Border Haats and the vision for their future development, establishment of an institutional mechanism for inputs on trade and investment, etc.
- (e) For increasing bilateral trade with Bangladesh, the Government has taken various steps to improve the trade infrastructure which, inter-alia, include upgradation of Land Customs Stations, establishment of Integrated Check Posts/Border Haats, facilitation of bilateral and sub-regional connectivity, etc. The Government continues to engage pro-actively with Bangladesh to strengthen trade and economic relations. 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 Bangladesh.

Annexure-I

FTA's already in force

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
1	India - Sri Lanka FTA	28th December, 1998	1 st March, 2000
2	Agreement on SAFTA (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives and Afghanistan)	4th January, 2004	1st January, 2006 <i>(Tariff concessions implemented from 1st July, 2006)</i>
3	India Nepal Treaty of Trade	27 th October 2009	The Treaty has been extended for a further period of 7 years and is currently in force till 26 th October 2023.
4	India - Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit	17 th January, 1972	Renewed periodically, with mutually agreed modifications. Agreement dated 29 th July 2006 was valid for 10 years. With mutual consent, the validity was extended for a period of one year or the period till the proposed new Agreement comes into force. The renewed Agreement has been signed on 12.11.2016 and came into force with effect from 29 July 2017.
5	India - Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)	9 th October, 2003.	1 st September, 2004
6	India - Singapore CECA	29th June, 2005	1st August, 2005
7	India - ASEAN- CECA - Trade in Goods, Services and Investment Agreement (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)	13 th August, 2009 for goods and November, 2014 for Services and Investment	Goods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st January 2010 in respect of India and Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand. • 1st June 2010 in respect of India and Vietnam. • 1st September 2010 in respect of India and Myanmar. • 1st October 2010 in respect of India and Indonesia. • 1st November 2010 in respect of India and Brunei. • 24 January 2011 in respect of India and Laos.

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st June 2011 in respect of India and the Philippines. • 1st August, 2011 in respect of India and Cambodia. Services and Investment 1 July, 2015
8	India - South Korea CEPA	7 th August 2009	1 st January, 2010
9	India - Japan CEPA	16 th February, 2011	1 st August, 2011
10	India - Malaysia CECA	18 th February, 2011	1 st July, 2011

Annexure-II

PTAs already in force:

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
1	Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) (Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka)	July, 1975 (revised on 2 nd November, 2005)	1st Nov, 1976
2	Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) (Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe)	13 th April, 1988	19 th April, 1989
3	SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA) (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka)	11 April, 1993	7 December, 1995
4	India - Afghanistan	6th March, 2003	13 th May, 2003
5	India - MERCOSUR	25th January, 2004	1st June, 2009
6	India – Chile	8 th March, 2006	11 th September, 2007. The agreement has been expanded on 6 th September, 2016 and came into force w.e.f. 16 th May, 2017.
