

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 913
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd JULY, 2018

IMPACT OF FTAs

913. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any mechanism to evaluate the impact of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on domestic economy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to safeguard domestic economy after any such impact studies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has noticed that FTAs are always one sided and if so, the details thereof?

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) to (d) The evaluation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) is a continuous process. A Joint Study Group (JSG) is normally set up to study the feasibility of the proposed FTAs, including their impact on the domestic industry. Stakeholders including industry representatives, Apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Industry Associations as well as the Administrative Ministries and Departments are consulted from time to time. In order to protect the interests of the domestic industry and agriculture sector, FTAs 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.
- (e) No Madam. The Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are negotiated on the basis of mutually beneficial outcomes and achieving overall balance for the trading partners.
