

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 85
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th DECEMBER, 2018

RCEP AGREEMENT

*85. SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has finalised the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether RCEP will hurt the local industry, agriculture sector and allow workers' exploitation and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether RCEP is negotiated in secrecy and is likely to favour big companies and threaten India's agriculture, industry and e-Commerce sectors;
- (d) if so, the details thereof in each case; and
- (e) whether RCEP participating member countries have not fully disclosed their positions and relevant documents are shared with affected constituencies and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सुरेश प्रभु)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI SURESH PRABHU)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 85 FOR ANSWER ON 17th DECEMBER,2018
REGARDING “RCEP AGREEMENT”.**

(a) and (b) : No Madam, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a proposed comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between ten ASEAN member states and their six FTA partners namely India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea, has not been finalised yet. Trade negotiations take into account stakeholder feedback, including from those in agricultural and industrial sectors as well as trade experts, in an effort to balance trade ambitions and sensitivities.

(c) to (e) The negotiations amongst participating countries are held in confidence, as disclosures during negotiations are likely to compromise the negotiating position of countries and prevent constructive and meaningful negotiations.
