

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2313
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st DECEMBER, 2022

TRADE WITH GCC

2313(H). SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:

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

- (a) whether India's trade with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is increasing rapidly;
- (b) if so, the details of India's total exports to Gulf countries during the last five years;
- (c) the details of India's needs and requirements which form the basis of India's trade with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC);
- (d) whether non-resident Indians live in nearly half of the total area of the Gulf countries, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether India and Qatar have launched a Startup Bridge between Invest India and Invest Qatar to move forward in the Startup sector, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether Assam tea is also exported to these Gulf countries, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): Bilateral Trade between India and the GCC grew from US\$ 87.35 billion in FY 2020-21 to US\$ 154.66 billion in FY 2021-22, registering an increase of 77.06% on a year-on-year basis. During the current FY 2022-23, for the period April-October 2022, bilateral trade between India and the GCC stood at US\$ 111.71 billion, up from US\$ 79.49 billion during the same period in FY 2021-22. This is an increase of 40.53% on a year-on-year basis. During the period FY 2017-18 to FY 2021-22, bilateral trade between India and the GCC has grown by 10.57% on a compounded annual growth rate basis.

(b): Details of India's exports to the GCC during the last five financial years is as follows:

India's Exports to GCC							
Values in USD Billion							
Sl.No.	Country	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Apr-Oct 2022
1	BAHRAIN	0.56	0.74	0.56	0.53	0.90	0.45
2	KUWAIT	1.37	1.33	1.29	1.05	1.24	0.85
3	OMAN	2.44	2.25	2.26	2.36	3.15	2.77
4	QATAR	1.47	1.61	1.27	1.28	1.84	1.14
5	SAUDI ARABIA	5.41	5.56	6.24	5.86	8.76	6.20
6	UAE	28.15	30.13	28.85	16.68	28.04	18.25
	GCC Total	39.39	41.62	40.47	27.76	43.93	29.66

Source: DGCIS

(c): India and the six GCC countries are members of the multilateral trading system, the World Trade Organisation (WTO). India and the UAE recently concluded a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that entered into force on 01 May 2022. Like any other partner country in the WTO/ bilateral Free Trade Agreements, trade with GCC countries also entails adhering to relevant customs laws and procedures of India and the respective partner countries under the existing trade Agreements, which includes, inter alia, customs duties, technical standards, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, export and import licencing measures, labelling, packaging and marketing requirements, and any other relevant rules and regulations of India and the partner countries.

(d): As per last figures provided by local authorities in Gulf countries, the estimated number of non-resident Indians (NRIs) currently residing in Gulf countries is as follows:

Sl.No.	Country	Estimated No. of NRIs residing in the country
1.	Bahrain	3.08 lakh
2.	Kuwait	9.24 lakh
3.	Oman	6.53 lakh
4.	Qatar	8.44 lakh
5.	Saudi Arabia	21.60 lakh
6.	United Arab Emirates	35.54 lakh

(e): Yes, Sir. A Startup Bridge has been launched in collaboration with Invest India, the Embassy of India in Doha, Qatar, and Invest Qatar. The India-Qatar Startup Bridge was launched by the then Hon'ble Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu during the India-Qatar Business Forum held in Doha on 5th June 2022. The collaboration of these two fast-paced and ever-growing ecosystems will result in long-term economic growth and prosperity for both countries. More information of this Startup Bridge is available online on the following:

<https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/international/india-qatar-bridge.html>

(f): Yes, Sir. Indian tea, including Assam tea, is exported to the GCC. In FY 2021-22, Indian tea exports to the GCC increased to USD 107.18 million from USD 76.20 million in FY 2020-21, an increase of 40.66%. As merchant exporters of tea export blended teas by mixing teas from different regions, including Assam, in order to cater to the requirements of different buyers located in various countries, including the GCC countries, the exact volume of Assam tea exports to the GCC countries cannot be estimated.
