

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1604
ANSWERED ON- 10/02/2023

FOREIGN POLICY

1604. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether India has made any changes in foreign policy with neighbouring countries to strengthen the relationship and increase the trade during the last five years; and
- (b) if so, the detail thereof along with details of the country who responded positively in exchange?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(DR. RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH)

(a) India's Neighbourhood First policy continues to guide its approach towards the management of relations with countries in its immediate neighbourhood, that is, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Neighbourhood First policy, inter alia, is aimed at enhancing physical, digital and people to people connectivity across the region, as well as augmenting trade and commerce.

(b) The bilateral trade of India with countries under the Neighborhood First Policy has increased from about USD 27.9 billion in 2017-18 to about USD 41.6 billion in 2021-22. Country-wise breakup is attached as Annexure I.

ANNEXURE I

Bilateral Trade with countries under Neighbourhood First Policy*

Country	Financial Year				
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Afghanistan	1.14	1.15	1.53	1.34	1.07
Bangladesh	9.30	10.25	9.47	10.78	18.13
Bhutan	0.92	1.03	1.14	1.13	1.43
Maldives	0.22	0.24	0.23	0.22	0.74
Myanmar	1.61	1.73	1.52	1.30	1.89
Pakistan	2.41	2.56	0.83	0.33	0.52
Nepal	7.05	8.27	7.87	7.51	11.02
Sri Lanka	5.25	6.19	4.70	4.14	6.81

(In Billions USD)

*Source: Department of Commerce (<https://tradedstat.commerce.gov.in/eidb/default.asp>)
