

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3653
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22nd MARCH, 2023

FTA

3653. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

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

- (a) whether India and Australia have signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of sectors where India is likely to be benefited under the said agreement;
- (d) whether India has signed FTA with any other developed country after Japan;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether India is holding talks with Britain to enforce FTA on top priority basis; and
- (g) if so, the present status 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) to (c): Yes Sir. Government of India has entered into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Australia through India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) which entered into force on 29 December 2022. This Agreement provides for substantial preferential market access coverage for both goods and services between the two countries. It also resolved the long pending tax issue of India's IT companies.

Amongst others, India's labour-intensive sectors such as Gems & Jewellery, Textiles & Apparels, leather, footwear, furniture, food and agricultural products, engineering products, medical devices and automobiles are likely to benefit from zero duty market access. On the Services side, Indian exports will benefit from certainty in market access and non-discriminatory treatment in most of the service sectors in Australia. Further, mobility commitments will benefit our chefs and yoga teachers; Indian students, professionals and skilled workers. The complete details of Ind-Aus ECTA available in the website of Department of Commerce and can be accessed at the link: <https://commerce.gov.in/international-trade/trade-agreements/ind-aus-ecta/>

(d)&(e): Pursuant to entering into an FTA with Japan (India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement), India has signed an FTA with Australia, which is a developed country.

(f)&(g): India and the United Kingdom are negotiating an FTA since 13th January 2022. Seven rounds of negotiations have been held so far.
