

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4772
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th MARCH, 2023

TRADE WITH SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

4772. SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that South Asia is the World's lowest intra-regional trade region around the world;
- (b) if so, whether the Indian Government is taking any steps to increase the economic engagement with South Asian countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is considering the decrease of the Non-Tariff barriers to speed up the trade relations with neighbouring countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of India's trade relations with South Asian countries since 2019, year and country-wise?

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): This data is not available with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(b) & (c): Government of India continues to engage proactively with South Asian countries to promote greater intra-regional trade and strengthen economic relations. Issues impacting trade raised by these countries are taken up for an early resolution through established bilateral and multilateral interactions at Ministerial and Official levels. Improvements in trade infrastructure in the form of establishment and upgradation of Land Custom Stations, Integrated Check Posts, Trade Facilitation Centres and Border Haats etc. are carried out in coordination with the concerned neighboring countries. Assistance is provided under Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme to Indian exporters, Export Promotion Councils, Apex Trade Bodies etc. for participation in events in these countries. Additionally, measures have been taken such as promotion of trade in INR

denomination, granting of credit lines and project loans, resolving buyer seller disputes etc. to boost economic engagements with these countries.

(d) & (e): A number of issues related to NTBs are resolved through bilateral and multilateral meetings under the institutional mechanism with neighbouring countries. It includes cooperation in customs, facilitation of trade through railways, land and sea ports, harmonization of standards, etc.

(f): Bilateral Trade data of India with South Asian countries is given in the table below:

(Figures in US\$ million)

S.No.	Countries	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1.	Nepal	7871.95	7511.62	11016.79
2.	Bhutan	1144.33	1134.02	1430.84
3.	Bangladesh	9465.49	10783.22	18134.30
4.	Sri Lanka	4704.61	4141.17	6812.16
5.	Pakistan	830.58	329.26	516.36
6.	Maldives	232.57	220.36	739.33
7.	Afghanistan	1527.42	1335.27	1065.40
