

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 53
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th NOVEMBER, 2019

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

*53. ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:
PROF. SAUGATA RAY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to sign the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, whether there is any confusion over the participation in RCEP and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether some State Governments including Kerala have submitted representations raised concerns on the participation in RCEP and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any discussion with the stakeholders with regard to RCEP and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether India has signed in the Free Trade Agreements, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(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
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REGARDING “REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP”.**

(a) to (b) During the 3rd RCEP Leaders Summit which was held on 4 November, 2019 in Bangkok; India stated that the current structure of RCEP did not reflect the RCEP Guiding Principles or address the outstanding issues and concerns of India, in the light of which India did not join RCEP.

(c) to (d) The Government held regular stakeholders’ consultations with industry, exporters, and trade experts for taking inputs for formulating India’s positions in Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Some of the State Governments including Kerala have provided specific inputs, which were taken into account in the negotiations.

(e) The details of free trade agreements (FTAs) and preferential trade agreements (PTAs) signed by India, with the details thereof are given at ‘Annexure 1’.

A. FTA's already in force

S. No.	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
1	India - Sri Lanka FTA	28th December, 1998	1 st March, 2000
2	Agreement on SAFTA (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives and Afghanistan)	4 th January, 2004	1st January, 2006 (<i>Tariff concessions implemented from 1st July, 2006</i>)
3	India Nepal Treaty of Trade	27 th October 2009	The Treaty has been extended for a further period of 7 years and is currently in force till 26 th October 2023.
4	India - Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit	17 th January, 1972	Renewed periodically, with mutually agreed modifications. Agreement dated 29 th July 2006 was valid for 10 years. With mutual consent, the validity was extended for a period of one year or the period till the proposed new Agreement comes into force. The renewed Agreement has been signed on 12.11.2016 and came into force with effect from 29 July 2017.
5	India - Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)	9 th October, 2003	1 st September, 2004
6	India - Singapore CECA	29 th June, 2005	1st August, 2005
7	India - ASEAN- CECA - Trade in Goods, Services and Investment Agreement (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)	13 th August, 2009 for goods and November, 2014 for Services and Investment	Goods 1st January 2010 in respect of India and Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand. 1 st June 2010 in respect of India and Vietnam. 1 st September 2010 in respect of India and Myanmar. 1 st October 2010 in respect of India and Indonesia. 1 st November 2010 in respect of India and Brunei. 24 January 2011 in respect of India and Laos. 1 st June 2011 in respect of India and the Philippines. 1 st August, 2011 in respect of India and Cambodia. Services and Investment 1 July, 2015
8	India - South Korea CEPA	7 th August 2009	1 st January, 2010
9	India - Japan CEPA	16 th February, 2011	1 st August, 2011
10	India - Malaysia CECA	18 th February, 2011	1 st July, 2011

B. PTAs already in force:

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
1	Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) (Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka)	July, 1975 (revised on 2 nd November, 2005)	1st Nov, 1976
2	Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) (Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe)	13 th April, 1988	19 th April, 1989
3	SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA) (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka)	11 April, 1993	7 December, 1995
4	India - Afghanistan	6 th March, 2003	13 th May, 2003
5	India – MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay)	25 th January, 2004	1st June, 2009
6	India - Chile	8 th March, 2006	11 th September, 2007. The agreement has been expanded on 6 th September, 2016 and came into force w.e.f. 16 th May, 2017.
