

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3554
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th MARCH, 2021

RCEP

3554. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:

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

- (a) whether the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was held as planned;
- (b) if so, the details of decision taken in the Beijing meet;
- (c) whether the representatives of Indian Industry were consulted before the meeting; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

- (a) to (d): The Government held extensive consultations with stakeholders such as the domestic industry, exporters, Export Promotion Councils, trade experts, various Ministries/Departments, academicians etc. and received inputs, which were taken into consideration while formulating India's position in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations.

During the 3rd RCEP Leaders' Summit held on 4 November, 2019 in Bangkok, India conveyed its position 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 the consensus. India's position in RCEP was formulated to achieve equitable outcomes, balanced ambitions and address domestic sensitivities of its stakeholders including small entrepreneurs.

Prior to the November 2019 Summit, India had expressed its concerns on market access and other issues leading to unbalanced trade and the need for addressing the causes of existing trade imbalances, including during the 8th RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial meeting held in Beijing on 2-3 August 2019.
