

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1678**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2022**

**TRADE WITH GCC**

1678. SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:

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

- (a) whether India's trade with the Gulf Cooperation Council(GCC) is growing at a fast pace;
- (b) if so, the details of India's total exports to the Gulf countries during the last five years;
- (c) the details of requirements for India's trade with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC);
- (d) whether NRIs constitute half of the Gulf countries and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Startup Bridge has been launched between Invest India and Invest Qatar to accelerate Startup sector in both the countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether Assam tea is being exported to such Gulf countries and if so, the details 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) : Bilateral Trade between India and the GCC grew from US\$ 87.35 billion in FY 2020-21 to US\$ 154.66 billion in FY 2021-22, registering an increase of 77.06% on a year-on-year basis. Since FY 2017-18, on a compounded annual growth rate basis, bilateral trade between India and the GCC has grown by 10.57%.

(b) : Details of India's exports to the GCC during the last five financial years is as follows:

<b>India's Exports to GCC</b>						
<b>Values in USD Billion</b>						
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
1	BAHRAIN	0.56	0.74	0.56	0.53	0.90
2	KUWAIT	1.37	1.33	1.29	1.05	1.24
3	OMAN	2.44	2.25	2.26	2.36	3.15
4	QATAR	1.47	1.61	1.27	1.28	1.84
5	SAUDI ARABIA	5.41	5.56	6.24	5.86	8.76
6	UAE	28.15	30.13	28.85	16.68	28.04
	<b>GCC Total</b>	<b>39.39</b>	<b>41.62</b>	<b>40.47</b>	<b>27.76</b>	<b>43.93</b>

Source: DGCIS

(c): India and the six GCC countries are members of the multilateral trading system, the World Trade Organisation (WTO). India and the UAE recently concluded a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that entered into force on 01 May 2022. Like any other partner country in the WTO/ bilateral Free Trade Agreements, trade with GCC countries also entails adhering to relevant customs laws and procedures of India and the respective partner countries under the existing trade Agreements, which includes, inter alia, customs duties, technical standards, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, export and import licencing measures, labelling, packaging and marketing requirements, and any other relevant rules and regulations of India and the partner countries.

(d): As per last figures provided by local authorities in Gulf countries, the estimated number of non-resident Indians (NRIs) currently residing in Gulf countries is as follows:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Estimated No. of NRIs residing in the country (In Lakh)</b>
1.	Bahrain	3.20
2.	Kuwait	10.29
3.	Muscat	6.26
4.	Qatar	7.80
5.	Saudi Arabia	21.60
6.	United Arab Emirates	35

(e): Yes. A Startup Bridge has been launched in collaboration with Invest India, the Embassy of India in Doha, Qatar, and Invest Qatar. The India-Qatar Startup Bridge was launched by the Hon'ble Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu during the India-Qatar Business Forum held in Doha on 5th June 2022. The collaboration of these two fast-paced and ever-growing ecosystems will result in long-term economic growth and prosperity for both countries. More information of this StartUp Bridge is available on the following website of Startup India:

<https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/international/india-qatar-bridge.html>

(f): As merchant exporters of tea export blended teas by mixing teas from different regions, including Assam, in order to cater to the requirements of different buyers located in various countries, including the GCC countries, the exact volume of Assam tea exports to the GCC countries cannot be estimated.

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