

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 521
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th JULY, 2022

RTAs

521. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:
SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:

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

- (a) the names of the Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) which have proved beneficial for India;
- (b) whether there are any RTAs which have not been beneficial for the country;
- (c) if so, the names thereof and the manner in which they have not been beneficial for India;
- (d) whether the RTAs signed by India contain exit clause;
- (e) if so, the names of the RTAs containing exit clause and those not having it; and
- (f) whether the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement contains exit clause 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) to (c): India has signed 13 Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)/Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with various countries/regions namely, Japan, South Korea, countries of ASEAN region and countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)Mauritius, United Arab Emirates, Australia. India's merchandise exports to all these countries/regions have registered a growth in last ten years.

The following table gives country/region wise merchandise export details:

India's exports - RTA Partner Countries/Region wise			
Values in US\$ billion			
India's RTA partner Countries/region	Names of RTAs	Export in 2011	Export in 2021
ASEAN	India-ASEAN FTA India-Singapore CECA India-Malaysia CECA India-Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)	34.5	40.6
Japan	India-Japan CEPA	5.6	6.1
South Korea	India-South Korea CEPA	4.6	7.0
SAFTA	Agreement on SAFTA India-Sri Lanka FTA India-Nepal Treaty of Trade India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit	13.0	31.6
Mauritius	India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)	It is too early to calculate quantifiable benefits for this RTA, as it was implemented only w.e.f. 10.04.2021.	
United Arab Emirates	India-UAE CEPA	It is too early to calculate quantifiable benefits for this RTA, as it was implemented only w.e.f. 01.05.2022.	
Australia	India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA)	This RTA has been signed on 02.04.2022, but not yet implemented.	
<i>Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S)</i>			

In addition, India has also signed 6 Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) including Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA).

(d) & (e): All of India's RTAs, as listed in the table above, have exit clauses.

(f): Yes, Sir. Article 32 of Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) mentions that "Any Participating State may withdraw from this Agreement, such withdrawal to take effect six months following the day on which written notice of the same is served to the Participating States through the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. The rights and obligations of a Participating State which has withdrawn from this Agreement shall cease to apply as of that date".
