

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2983
ANSWERED ON 18/03/2025

NEGOTIATION IN FTA

2983. SHRI TAPIR GAO:

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

- (a) the details of expected outcomes from the high-level dialogue between the Ministry and European Commissioner regarding the Free Trade Agreement (FTA);
- (b) the details of the key areas that are being prioritized for negotiation in this FTA;
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry plan to address tariff and non-tariff barriers to facilitate a commercially meaningful trade agenda with the EU;
- (d) the extent to which India engage with the EU to harmonize standards and share best practices in order to achieve “zero defect” and “zero effect” production capabilities; and
- (e) the manner in which India plan to ensure that the upcoming FTA addresses the needs and concerns of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), farmers and fishermen on both sides?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (e) The High-Level dialogue (HLD) between Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Maroš Šefčovič, European Commissioner for Trade was held on 18-19 January 2025. The two leaders reviewed the progress made so far in the ongoing India-European Union Free Trade Agreement Negotiations (India-EU FTA), the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and discussed issues of bilateral importance. As an outcome of the High-Level dialogue, India and EU agreed to cooperate in Agri-food, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and Clean Technologies sectors with the aim of promoting value chains that can withstand global challenges. In addition, the High-Level Dialogue led to listing of a number of Indian aquaculture establishments for export to the European Union and the issue of equivalence for agricultural organic products was taken up. Both sides aim to conclude a fair, equitable, mutually beneficial and commercially meaningful Free Trade Agreement(FTA), which takes into consideration the needs and concerns of all the stakeholders including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), farmers and fishermen on both sides.

Within the framework of World Trade Organization (WTO), all countries impose trade measures on imports primarily in the form of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical trade regulations, quota restrictions, safeguard duties, and various sustainability-related regulations to protect human, animal, and plant life or health, as well as to promote sustainable development and environmental conservation. However, when such trade measures are perceived as trade barriers having an adverse impact on trade, the Government proactively takes up such measures with concerned countries at bilateral and multilateral level, as may be necessary, for remedial action. The Government has strongly taken up all trade restrictive measures, either within the WTO framework or otherwise, with the European Union (EU) and its member states at relevant multilateral and bilateral forums including at the India-EU Trade and Technology Council and the India-EU High Level Dialogue.

Government has also engaged with the European Union for exchange of best practices and harmonisation of standards with objective of building India as a high-quality product market.
