

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4082
ANSWERED ON 25/03/2025

PROMOTION OF TRADE

4082. SHRI BAJRANG MANOHAR SONWANE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up a dedicated platform-the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Desk to promote trade, investment and business between the two regions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including its objectives;
- (c) whether any agreement has been signed with the EFTA block representative in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to explore joint venture, investment opportunities and technology partnerships under the framework of TEPA?

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) India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) on 10th March 2024 at New Delhi. EFTA is an inter-governmental organization set up in 1960 comprising of Switzerland, Iceland, Norway & Liechtenstein. Under TEPA, EFTA has committed to promote foreign direct investments by USD 100 billion in India in the next 15 years and to facilitate the generation of 1 million direct employment in India, through such investments. This is the first time that India has secured such an investment commitment under a Trade agreement. As per the provisions of Chapter 7 (Investment Promotion and Cooperation) of the TEPA, India has committed to set up an EFTA desk. The primary mandate of the EFTA desk is to assist investors from the EFTA states who are seeking to invest, investing, or have already invested in India. This includes providing support in addressing any challenges or issues that may arise in the course of their investment activities. The Government of India has proactively moved forward with the establishment of the EFTA desk in February 2025. The dedicated EFTA desk helpline email ID, eftadesk@investindia.org.in, has been activated to provide investment support related to the ease of doing (EoDB) in India.
