

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4865  
ANSWERED ON 01/04/2025

FTA WITH EFTA

4865. SHRI RAMESH AWASTHI:  
SHRI TEJASVI SURYA:  
SHRI PRAVEEN PATEL:  
SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of objectives of the concluded Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA);
- (b) the details of estimated Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the timeline of the investment;
- (c) whether the agreement would lead to direct employment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the agreement is expected to generate direct employment opportunities in the country and if so, the estimated number of jobs to be created and the sectors likely to benefit?

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 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at New Delhi. EFTA is an inter-governmental organization set up in 1960, comprising of Switzerland, Iceland, Norway & Liechtenstein. The objective of TEPA is to liberalize trade in goods and services between India and EFTA in accordance with the GATT 1994 and GATS, respectively, enhance investment opportunities, promote competition, ensure effective protection of intellectual property rights, foster sustainable development, and contribute to the growth and expansion of global trade. 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 such FTA signed by India in which a commitment of Foreign Direct Investment into India has been secured. The sectors that are likely to see the highest impact from the agreement include seafood & maritime, energy, healthcare, financial services, education and audio-visual services, pharmaceutical, mechanical & electrical engineering, renewable energy and food & food processing. The TEPA is expected to drive investments into India and give impetus to “Make in India” and “Atmanirbhar Bharat” initiatives by encouraging domestic manufacturing in these sectors.