

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3794
ANSWERED ON 12/08/2025

INDIA'S BILATERAL TRADE

3794. Dr. D. PURANDESWARI:

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

- (a) the data on India's bilateral trade volumes and export performance with countries post-implementation of FTAs since 2020, State and year-wise;
- (b) the details of the data on the tariff elimination or reduction have taken place under new-generation FTAs and their impact on the trade balance;
- (c) the details of the mechanisms in place to conduct stakeholder consultations and industry outreach before entering into new FTAs;
- (d) the details of the steps have been taken by the Government to sign and operationalise FTAs with countries like the UAE, Australia, the UK and the EU in recent years and the results thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has introduced a monitoring mechanism to assess sector-wise benefits, safeguard against dumping, and address domestic industry concerns arising from FTAs, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (e) India has signed 5 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with its trading partners since 2020 as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
1	India - Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)	22 nd February, 2021	1 st April, 2021
2	India-UAE CEPA	18 th February, 2022	1 st May 2022
3	India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA)	2 nd April, 2022	29 December 2022.
4	India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)	10 March 2024	Will be implemented after ratification by EFTA countries
5	India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)	24 July 2025	Will be implemented after ratification

The merchandise export, import and trade balance in respect of implemented FTAs of Mauritius, the United Arab Emirates and Australia are as under:

India's Bilateral Trade with FTA Partner countries (Value in US \$ Million)						
Country/Region	Trade Flow	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Australia	Export	4044	8283	6951	7941	8579
	Import	8247	16756	19011	16159	15527
Mauritius	Export	423	715	463	778	676
	Import	43	72	91	73	211
United Arab Emirates	Export	16680	28045	31609	35625	36636
	Import	26623	44833	53232	48026	63423
Source-DGCIS						

For India-Australia ECTA, the exports have increased by 14% and 8% in year 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. For India-UAE FTA, core imports in 2024-2025 included Petroleum: Crude, Petroleum Products, and other related commodities. India's exports of agricultural products and pharmaceuticals have registered growth. Additionally, the FTA has also led to a significant growth in Foreign Direct Investment.

In FTAs, tariff reduction/elimination is implemented as per the tariff modalities agreed between the Parties. Products are classified into specific categories, namely: Tariff Elimination Immediate, where duties are reduced to zero on entry into force; Tariff

Elimination Phased, wherein duties are eliminated over an agreed staging period (e.g., 3, 5, 7, 10 years); Tariff Reduction; and Tariff Rate Quotas. The details are given in the Annexure 1.

The Department of Commerce is engaging in negotiations and reviews on trade agreements on an ongoing basis. Before entering into new FTA negotiations, a Joint Study Group is set up to study the feasibility of the proposed FTAs or an independent study is conducted, including their impact on the domestic industry. The government ensures that wide stakeholder consultations are held at all stages of the negotiations. This includes the pre-negotiation phase, each round of negotiations, and the post-conclusion phase, during the implementation of the agreements. Through these sector-specific consultations, domestic sensitivities and interests of farmers, MSMEs, etc, are carefully considered during the negotiations. The aim of FTAs is to generate benefits for industry, farmers, MSMEs and create job opportunities. FTAs are negotiated with the endeavour to deliver a comprehensive, balanced, broad-based and equitable agreement based on the principle of fairness and reciprocity. It also ensures a level playing field for Indian exporters vis-à-vis their competitors in the trading partner countries.

In addition to this structured approach, post-implementation, the Department of Commerce is continuously engaged with all stakeholders, including industry, to advance trade through trade promotion, trade facilitation and remedial measures for elevating trade and economic growth.

To protect the interests of the domestic industry, FTAs provide for maintaining sensitive, negative, or exclusion lists of items on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted. In addition, in case of surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take recourse to trade remedial measures such as anti-dumping and safeguards on imports within the period as mutually agreed to by the parties under the FTAs. The FTAs include provisions on Technical Barriers to Trade to promote mutual understanding of each sides' standards, technical regulations, and measures to enhance transparency. Additionally, FTAs address non-technical barriers, thereby facilitating smoother and more effective access to export markets for Indian goods. FTAs include sub-committees for review to align with emerging global requirements.

Annexure 1

Referred to in Part (a) to (e) in Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3794 for reply on 12.8.2025 raised by Dr. D. PURANDESWARI, Hon'ble Member of Parliament on the subject India's Bilateral Trade

Tariff elimination or reduction under India-Australia ECTA

	India		Australia	
Tariff modality	No of lines (HS 8-digit level)	% of total lines	No of lines (HS 8-digit level)	% of total lines
TEI	4760	40.0%	6367	98.3%
TEP (in 5/7/10 years)	3601	30.2%	113	1.7%
TR/TRQ	7	0.1%	-	-
Exclusion	3540	29.7%	-	-
Total lines	11908	100.0%	6480	100%

Tariff elimination or reduction under India-UAE CEPA

	India		UAE	
Tariff modality	No of lines (HS 8-digit level)	% of total lines	No of lines (HS 8-digit level)	% of total lines
TEI	7694	64.61%	6090	80.33%
TEP (in 5/7/10 years)	2401	20.16%	1269	16.74%
TR/TRQ	656	5.51	35	0.46%
Exclusion	1157	9.72	187	2.47%
Total lines	11908	100%	7581	100%

Tariff elimination or reduction under India- Mauritius CECPA

	India		Mauritius	
Tariff modality	No of lines (HS 8-digit level)	% of total lines	No of lines (HS 8-digit level)	% of total lines
TEI	38	5.56%	116	29.44%
TEP (in 5/7/10 years)	338	49.49%	89	22.59%
TR/TRQ	112	16.40%	79	20.05%
Total Reduction	117	17.13%	16	4.06%
Total MOP	10	1.46%	10	11.90%
Exclusion	68	9.96%	84	21.32%
Total lines	683	100.00%	394	100.00%

Description of Tariff Modalities:

TEI: Tariff Elimination Immediate

TEP: Tariff Elimination Phased

TR: Tariff Reduction

TRQ: Tariff Rate Quota

MoP: Margin of Preference