

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2765
ANSWERED ON 10/03/2026

TRADE AGREEMENTS

2765. SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the trade pacts with ASEAN, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore were against the national interest;
- (b) if so the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering cancelling the trade pacts with the above countries, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total quantity of palm oil imported and the amount we spent in this regard during the last twelve years; and
- (e) whether it is also a fact that nearly US \$ 18.3 billion was spent in 2024-25 for the import of palm oil, 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 (c): Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) primarily aim to increase trade, including through enhanced market access, trade in services, addressing non-tariff barriers, investment promotion, and economic and technical co-operation.

ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) was signed on 13th August 2009 and ratified by all ASEAN members by 01st August 2011. India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed in Feb 2011 and came into effect on 01st August 2011 while India-Korea CEPA was signed in August 2009 and came into effect on 01st January 2010. CEPA with Japan and Korea have provided a liberalized frame-work for trade in goods and services, investments and other areas of bilateral cooperation. India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) covering trade in goods, services and investment was signed on 18th February 2011 and entered into force on 1st July 2011; and India-

Singapore CECA covering trade in goods, services and investment was signed on 29th June 2005 and entered into force on 1st August 2005.

Since the implementation of AITIGA, India's exports to ASEAN have increased from USD 18.11 Bn in 2009-2010 to USD 38.96 Bn in 2024-25, and India's imports from ASEAN have also increased from USD 25.8 Bn in 2009-2010 to USD 84.16 Bn in 2024-25. India's bilateral merchandise trade with ASEAN countries have increased from USD 43.91 Bn in 2009-2010 to USD 123.12 Bn in 2024-25. Since the implementation of India - Japan CEPA, India's exports to Japan remain almost constant from USD 6.33 Bn in 2011-2012 to USD 6.25 Bn in 2024-25, and India's imports from Japan have increased from USD 11.97 Bn in 2011-2012 to USD 18.92 Bn in 2024-25. India's bilateral merchandise trade with Japan have increased from USD 18.3 Bn in 2011-2012 to USD 25.17 Bn in 2024-25. For India - Korea CEPA, India's exports to Korea have increased from USD 3.73 Bn in 2010-2011 to USD 5.82 Bn in 2024-25, while India's imports from Korea have increased from USD 10.46 Bn in 2010-2011 to USD 21.06 Bn in 2024-25. India's bilateral merchandise trade with Korea have increased from USD 14.19 Bn in 2010-2011 to USD 26.88 Bn in 2024-25.

FTAs through its joint committees and sub-committees reviews the issues raised by stakeholders including domestic industry to align with emerging global requirements. To more effectively leverage the benefits of the FTAs and calibrate them to domestic industry priorities, India and ASEAN are constructively engaged in review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement. Further, India and Korea are negotiating for upgradation of India-Korea CEPA. Two reviews of the India-Singapore CECA have already been completed.

India's recent FTAs with partners such as Mauritius, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Australia, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the United Kingdom (UK), Oman, New Zealand, and the European Union (EU) are calibrated to be future-ready, with comprehensive coverage of a wide range of disciplines including trade in goods and services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, trade remedies, customs procedures and trade facilitation, investment facilitation and protection, digital trade, intellectual property rights, government procurement, sustainable development, competition, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), transparency and good regulatory practices. These agreements are broader in scope, balanced and aligned to more effectively leverage trade complementarities, increase trade and investment, enhance export potential, create opportunities for domestic industry and farmers, and generate employment.

(d) & (e): India's import of palm oil, in terms of value as well as volume, for last twelve years, including for year 2024-25, is provided below:

India's Imports of Palm Oil

Year	Value (In USD Millions)	Volume (In Kilo Tonnes)
2013-14	6748.76	7947.08
2014-15	6586.06	8360.74
2015-16	5948.36	9859.04
2016-17	6201.44	8350.01
2017-28	6918.37	9640.49
2018-19	5349.41	9066.94
2019-20	5239.74	8824.43
2020-21	5888.62	7642.43
2021-22	10343.18	8211.02
2022-23	11758.16	9865.87
2023-24	8337.02	9096.44
2024-25	8489.33	8045.47

(Source: DGCIS)
