

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2481**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 09<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2016**

**REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

**2481. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:**  
**SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:**  
**KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:**  
**SHRIMATI VANAROJA R.:**  
**SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:**  
**SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:**  
**DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:**  
**SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:**  
**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:**  
**SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:**  
**DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:**  
**SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:**  
**SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:**

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

- (a) whether India has joined or proposes to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and if so, the details thereof along with the benefits likely to accrue therefrom;
- (b) whether the next round of RCEP negotiations is likely to be held in Australia and if so, the details thereof along with the strategy prepared by the Government for the said negotiations;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations from several trade experts/exporters opposing the RCEP agreement and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken by the Government on these representations; and
- (d) whether India has been told either agree to eliminate tariffs on most products quickly or leave the talks on the proposed Free Trade Agreement being negotiated by the RCEP and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण) (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- a) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed comprehensive Free Trade Agreement which is being negotiated between ten ASEAN member states namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos

Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and their six FTA partners namely India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. The RCEP is intended to facilitate and thereby increase goods and services trade as well as investment flows amongst the participating countries.

- b) and (c) The 12<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations under RCEP were held from 22– 29 April, 2016 in Perth, Australia. The government consults stakeholders' on a regular basis and takes into account their inputs. The strategy in the 12<sup>th</sup> RCEP Round was to look at addressing both the domestic sensitivities and export interest of India in the various areas under RCEP.

- d) No Madam, there has been no such suggestion.

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