

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2383(H)**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 2016**

**PROS AND CONS OF RCEP**

**2383(H). SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA:**

**SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:**

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

- (a) whether several trade experts have warned the Government against rushing into the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement which will create the world's largest free trade areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that the proposed RCEP agreement is likely to pave the way for surge in imports from China and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the Government was forced to engage with China through RCEP for a pact fearing that by staying away, it would not be able to participate in the discussions and might have to pay a higher price for engaging later and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether many Asian countries have openly opposed India in the recent trade negotiations on RCEP in New Zealand; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the names of countries who have opposed India's stand on RCEP?

**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): The Government engages on a regular basis with trade experts and stakeholders on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and other FTAs. The experts provide inputs on both the offensive and defensive interests under RCEP.

(b) to (e): The RCEP is yet to be finalised. India's negotiating position in RCEP takes into account its overall interest. No Sir, India has neither been forced to engage with any RCEP country nor has it faced open opposition in the RCEP negotiations.

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