

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4112

ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001

TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATION WITH NEW ZEALAND, CHILE AND KUWAIT

JASWANT SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether New Zealand, Chile and Kuwait have offered for increasing trade and economic relations with India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the States and sectors in which they have expressed their desire to improve relations;
- (c) whether any meeting of the Ambassadors and High Commissioners of these countries has held in these countries has held in this connection; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (d) : The bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries is reviewed from time to time by a Joint Trade Committee between India and New Zealand. The meetings of the Joint Trade Committee are held every year in each other's country. During the meeting, the issues of bilateral and mutual interests including ways and means for promotion of two way trade are deliberated. Frequent meetings with the New Zealand High Commissioner take place with the Minister/Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Senior Officers.

2. There is no trade agreement between India and Chile at present. However, a Free Trade Agreement between two countries is being pursued.

3. In the recent past, Kuwait has neither made any specific offer for increasing trade and economic relations with India, nor any meeting of the Ambassador of Kuwait has been held. However, the Embassy of Kuwait had intimated the Ministry of External Affairs that its Ministry of Trade and Industry intends to send a delegation to seek India's expertise in the fields of TRIPS, TRIMPS, etc. and other WTO matters.