

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5832  
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2002  
TRADE TALKS WITH BANGLADESH  
A. VENKATESH NAIK;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR;VIRENDRA KUMAR

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

- (a) whether any talks have been held recently at the official level to review the trade agreement between India and Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the points discussed at the meeting;
- (c) whether the existing Indo-Bangladesh trade agreement expired in April, 2002;
- (d) if so, whether a fresh bilateral trade agreement has been finalized; and
- (e) if so, details thereof and the new features, if any added to the new agreement?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) & (b): Trade Talks were held at Commerce Secretary level between India and Bangladesh at Dhaka during April 8-10, 2002. While the text of the Trade Agreement did not come up for discussion, the full gamut of bilateral trade issues was discussed and it was agreed to continue discussions and to hold the next round of talks as early as possible. India agreed to provide duty-free access to forty tariff lines at the six-digit Harmonised System (HS) level corresponding to sixteen categories of Bangladesh products. It was also agreed that Joint group of customs officials is to meet as early as possible to address the streamlining of customs and allied administrative procedures for unhindered flow of trade between the two countries. Bangladesh agreed to take up with National Board of Revenue the Indian request to allow land route for export of cotton yarn and sugar to Bangladesh.

(c) The existing Indo-Bangladesh Trade Agreement was valid upto 3rd April, 2002. It has further been extended for two months with effect from 4th April, 2002.

(d) & (e) : Do not arise.