

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2888
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2002
DUTY CONCESSIONS BY PAKISTAN
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR;SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL

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

- (a) whether Pakistan had granted duty concessions on over 600 items to India and other SAARC countries under the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA);
- (b) if so, the details of these items and duty concessions on each ; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government on these concessions?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The SAARC member countries exchange tariff concessions with each other under the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA). Pakistan also grants concessions to SAARC member countries, including India under SAPTA. These concessions are given the legal cover by issuance of related Customs Notification, which Pakistan had done earlier vide notification dated the 17th June, 2000. With the changes in the Harmonised Coding System in 2002, a number of H.S. Codes have either been deleted, merged or changed, necessitating re-vamping of the said Customs Notification. It is for this reason that a revised Customs Notification dated the 15th June, 2002 has been issued by the Government of Pakistan which covers the concessions already available to SAARC member countries, and there is no change in the rates of preferential duty concessions.