

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:400  
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2002  
DUTY FREE ACCESS TO BANGLADESHI PRODUCTS  
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

- (a) whether the Bangladesh has requested to allow duty -free access to 13 categories of their products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian authorities have allowed duty - free access to 12 Bangladeshi products;
- (d) if so, whether the Government are further considering the request of Bangladesh for more trade concessions; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to ( e ) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.400 FOR ANSWER ON 9th AUGUST 2002 REGARDING DUTY-FREE ACCESS TO BANGLADESHI PRODUCTS

(a) to (b): Bangladesh requested for duty free access to India on 25 categories of their products corresponding to 191 tariff lines at the six-digit HS level. These, inter alia, include products in chemicals & petrochemicals; textiles; agriculture and leather & footwear sectors.

(c) to (e): During the Bangladesh-India Bilateral Trade Talks held at Dhaka from 8-10 April, 2002, India agreed to provide duty free access to Bangladeshi products on 40 tariff lines at the six digit HS level covering 16 categories of products requested by Bangladesh. It was decided that the actual notification of these 40 tariff lines would be done only after the Government of Bangladesh addressed the issue of land route for India's cotton yarn exports. The notification has not been issued since the Government of Bangladesh has not addressed our specific concern. Government of India has further received a list of 121 items from the Government of Bangladesh for duty free access to India. The list includes the 40 items on which Government of India had earlier agreed to provide duty free access to Bangladesh.