

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2420
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2004
FTA WITH MERCOSUR COUNTRIES LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES
Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government have entered into a free Trade Agreement with Mercosur countries (Latin American Countries);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the range of products have been identified for bilateral trade with Mercosur countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) No, Sir. However, the Government have entered into a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with MERCOSUR countries on January 25, 2004.

(b) to (d) The PTA aims at expansion of bilateral trade by granting fixed tariff preferences to certain products as a first step towards the creation of a Free Trade Area between MERCOSUR and India. All the five annexes to the PTA, namely the two lists of products on which fixed tariff preferences are to be given, the texts on Rules of Origin, Safeguard Measures and Dispute Settlement are being negotiated at present.