

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1675
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND SWITZERLAND
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether bilateral trade between India and Switzerland has been growing in the recent past;
- (b) if so, whether Switzerland has shown their interest for a free trade agreement with India;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) Bilateral trade between India and Switzerland during the last three years has been as follows:

(US\$ million)				
Year	Export	Import	TotalTrade	
2004-05	540.89	5939.93	6480.81	
2005-06		479.52	6555.80	7035.32
2006-07	466.15	9116.32	9582.47	

(b),(c)&(d): Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein are members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).Switzerland, as part of EFTA, had proposed establishment of an India-EFTA Joint Study Group to examine measures to promote bilateral trade and investment flows and to explore the possibility of a bilateral broad based Trade and Investment agreement.

This JSG was established on 1 December 2006 and has met four times in 2007.The report of the JSG has been submitted to the Governments on both sides recommending that the governments of the EFTA States and India enter into negotiations for a broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement.