

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1679
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010
FTA WITH ISRAEL AND GCC COUNTRIES
Sudhakaran Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of economic benefits likely for India by the signing of the said FTA;
- (d) whether the Government proposes for a separate Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Israel; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

- (a) India is negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
- (b) & (c) So far, two rounds of negotiations have been held. The Free Trade Agreement is aimed at giving a boost to trade and investment with the Gulf countries.
- (d) & (e). Yes Madam, Government proposes to enter into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Israel. It was decided to launch negotiations at a mutually convenient date and place.