

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3874  
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010  
BORDER TRADE WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES  
Premdas Shri

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

- (a) whether steps are being taken by the Government to ensure an increase in trade with our neighbouring countries surrounding the North East, including Sikkim;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details regarding extent of border trade and the list of items being traded during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Ministry proposes to expand this list so that a more comprehensive trade regime is ushered in; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the process is likely to be completed?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. In order to improve commercial relations with neighbouring countries, the Government of India has signed the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). India also provides preferential trade exchange to the neighbouring countries under Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) as well as under Duty Free Tariff Preferential (DFTP) Scheme. Besides, GOI has a number of bilateral agreement and discussions which helps deliberating upon and resolving certain vexed issues relating to trade and nontrade barriers. Several other initiatives for facilitating trade such as exchange of trade delegations, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organisation of buyers sellers meets are also organized/facilitated from time to time.

(c): Fish, Agriculture Products, Sports Goods, Toys, Medical Equipments and Electrical Goods etc. are the main items being traded. The details of import and export to the neighbouring countries during the last three years is given below:-

(Rs. In Crores)

S. NO.	Country	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010 (April 09 - September 09)				
		Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
1.	Bangladesh	7365.96	1033.90	11743.21	1034.68	11317.21	1418.46	5105.81	521.70
2.	Bhutan	260.18	640.00	348.85	782.60	509.27	687.86	235.19	314.36
3.	China	37529.78	79008.60	43597.41	109116.06	42661.33	147605.59	19061.33	72444.37
4.	Myanmar	633.74	3540.94	746.19	3259.28	1017.76	4240.76	458.05	2872.02
5.	Nepal	4201.38	1384.51	6063.48	2527.25	7155.57	2255.67	2856.28	1020.97

(Source DGCI&S)

(d) & (e): No, Madam.