

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3140
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2009
INDIA'S TRADING PARTNERS
Antony Shri Anto

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

(a) the details regarding India's ten largest trading partners during the last three years alongwith the volume of trade, major items of export/import and net trade balance in rupees;and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to improve India's trading position with other countries?

Answer

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

(a) The details regarding India's ten largest trading partners during the last three years alongwith the volume of trade, and net trade balance is annexed. Major items of export/import are available on website of Department of Commerce i.e. on <http://www.commerce.nic.in>.

(b) India has taken a number of initiatives to enhance trade in other parts of the world through various trade promotion programmes which aim to promote trade by giving market access initiatives,establishing institutional mechanisms such as Joint Trade Committees,holding fairs & exhibitions and by granting assistance to exporters to promote trade on sustained basis.

For offsetting high freight cost and other externalities in select international markets, a new scheme called "Focus Market Scheme" has been launched since 1.4.2006. This allows exporters to get an incentive in the form of freely transferable duty credit scrip @ 2.5% of the FOB value of exports of such products. The initiative aims at enhancing India's competitiveness for export to identified Focus Markets. To begin with, 8 countries in Latin America, 49 countries in Africa, 10 countries of Commonwealth of Independent States(CIS), 5 countries in Central America and 1 country in Eastern Europe were notified as Focus Markets.