

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4202

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009

PTA/FTA WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether the Indian Pharmaceutical companies and banks are facing restriction in South Africa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to start technical negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)/Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with South Africa and Mercosur comprising Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the PTA/FTA will provide access to Indian goods and companies in South African and Latin American Markets?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b): As per available information, Indian pharmaceutical companies and Banks do not face any specific restriction in South Africa. However, it has been reported that registration process for pharma products takes a long time.
- (c) to (e): Delegations from India, South African Customs Union (SACU) and MERCOSUR held a meeting in Pretoria, South Africa on 6 October 2007 for exploratory exchange of views on the possible negotiation of a trilateral trade (TTA) in future. The three sides recognized that further studies would be required for defining scope and structure of TTA. The TTA initiative for enhancing trade and economic relations between India, SACU and MERCOSUR is at exploratory stage.