

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1071  
ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010  
TRADE WITH COMESA  
Semmalai Shri S.

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

- (a) the details of total volume of trade with Common Market for Eastern and South Africa (COMESA) region during the last three years;;
- (b) whether the Ministry has proposed to diversify the nature and complexion of trade with COMESA;and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) As per database of DGC&IS, the details of bilateral trade between India and Common Market for Eastern and South Africa (COMESA) region during the last three years are as follows:

Value in US \$ million

Financial Year    2007-08    2008-09    2009-10

Exports to COMESA    5941.49    6254.27    5151.09

Imports from COMESA    3965.31    3767.68    3340.27

Total Trade    9906.8    10021.95    8491.36

(b)&(c) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Commerce and Industry is taking the following steps in order to diversify the nature and complexion of trade with COMESA :-

# Under the 'Focus Africa' Programme, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry extends assistance in the form of grant under Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) schemes to exporters, Export Promotion Councils, Industry chambers etc. to visit these countries, organize trade fairs and invite African trade delegations to visit India. Recent major activity under this Programme in the COMESA countries was the 'Namaskar Africa' event organized by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) during 14th to 15th October, 2010 at Nairobi, Kenya,

# Institutional arrangements with many COMESA countries in the form of Joint Trade Committees,

# Implementation of the Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which was announced in April, 2008, and covers Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia in the COMESA region. The scheme provides for duty free market access on 85 % of India's tariff lines and Margins of Preference (MOP) on 9 % tariff lines, to be implemented over a period of 5 years,

# Increased interaction among businessmen through Joint Business Councils,

# Indian Missions in COMESA countries have been activated to focus on commercial issues as a priority.