

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3064
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010
TRADE WITH COMMONWEALTH NATIONS
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aiming to expand more trade with Commonwealth Nations in the near future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the estimated trade in terms of dollars between the Commonwealth Nations with India and SAARC countries with India?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. India has entered into Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) / Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) with the objective of promoting trade with many countries and regional groupings of which Commonwealth countries are a member. Following is a list of FTAs/PTAs that India has signed or is negotiating with commonwealth countries:

A-FTAs / PTAs already concluded

S.No.	FTA/PTA Partner	Commonwealth countries
1.	South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)	Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
2.	South Asia Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA)	Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
3.	India-ASEAN FTA	Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore
4.	Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP)	Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ghana, Guyana, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago
5.	India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)	Singapore
6.	India - Sri Lanka FTA	Sri Lanka

7. Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

8. India-Afghanistan PTA Afghanistan

B-FTAs / PTAs under negotiation

S.No. FTA/PTA Partner Commonwealth countries

1. India-EU Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) Cyprus, Malta and UK

2. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

3. Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa

4. India - Malaysia Malaysia

5. India - Mauritius Mauritius

6. India - Canada Canada

7. India-New Zealand New Zealand

(c) During 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, India's trade with Commonwealth Nations was USD 79.45 billion, USD 89.60 billion and USD 81.96 billion respectively.

During the same period India's trade with SAARC countries was USD 11.76 billion, USD 10.39 billion and USD 10.05 billion respectively.