

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:706  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012  
TRADE WITH GULF COUNTRIES  
Biju Shri P. K.;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

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

- (a) the details of trade between India, Gulf and other Arab countries during each of the last three years and the current year, value-wise and commodity-wise;
- (b) whether trade between India and Gulf and the other Arab countries has increased during the said period;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government aims to double its trade with the Gulf and the Arab countries to meet its future targets and demands;
- (e) if so, the details of the specific pacts/ agreements entered into with respective countries in this regard; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to promote the trade with Gulf countries in the ensuing five year plan?

**Answer**

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

(a): The details of trade between India, Gulf and other Arab countries value-wise during each of the last three years and the current year, and commodity-wise for the last three years is placed at Annexure I and Annexure II respectively.

(b) & (c) : Yes, Madam. The total trade between India and Gulf and other Arab countries has increased from US\$113.94 billion in 2008-09 to US\$144.02 billion in 2010-11. The total trade during the current financial year 2011-12 (Apr-Nov.) stood at US\$116.33 billion.

(d) to (f) : It is a constant endeavour of the Government to enhance the bilateral trade between India and Gulf and other Arab countries. India is negotiating for establishment of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Gulf Cooperation Council countries with the objective of boosting bilateral trade in goods, services and investment. The Government promotes trade with the said countries by encouraging participation of Apex Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards and other trade bodies from India and partner countries in each others' trade fairs, buyer-seller meets and other trade events. Joint Commission Meetings/ Joint Trade and Economic Committee Meetings with respective countries are also held at regular intervals to address the bilateral trade related issues to enhance bilateral trade.