

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:537

ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012

FTA WITH EU

Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh; Tagore Shri Manicka

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

- (a) whether negotiations are going on to finalise the India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA);
- (b) if so, the details of the contentious issues involved therein and the efforts being made by the Government to resolve those issues;
- (c) the present status of the negotiations being held in this regard and the details of the economic benefits likely to be accrued after the conclusion of the said FTA;
- (d) whether the pact in its present form is being opposed by various groups within the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

a)to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 537 FOR ANSWER ON 14TH MAY, 2012 REGARDING "FTA WITH EU"

(a) to (e) The Government of India is negotiating a bilateral Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with the European Union (EU) and negotiations were launched in Brussels on 28-29 June, 2007 based on the recommendations of the High Level Trade Group at the 7th India-EU Summit in October, 2006 in Helsinki. Till now, fourteen rounds of negotiations have been held and negotiations across various sectors are ongoing and are at an advanced stage. As is consistent with previous and established practice in ongoing negotiations, it would be premature to share the details of negotiations including the contentious issues and efforts being made to resolve them on account of sensitivities involved. Disclosures before finalisation of the Agreement may adversely affect India's position in the negotiations. Views of stakeholders are taken into consideration to determine negotiating positions with a view to ensure that the agreement, when concluded, will lead to enhanced bilateral trade in goods and services and investments.