

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6078

ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012

TRADE WITH BANGLADESH

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

- (a) whether the Government is actively considering to lift ban on import of some goods from Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the list of items on which there is a ban at present;
- (c) the total volume of trade between the two countries alongwith the details of the most traded sectors;
- (d) whether the Government is in the process of increasing trade between the two countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and priority sectors identified by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Import of hazardous waste or substances containing or contaminated with such hazardous wastes as specified in Schedule 8 of Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 1989, import of beef in any form and import of products containing beef in any form is prohibited. Import restrictions also apply, inter alia, on food items, cement, bottled drinking water, alcoholic beverages, livestock and livestock products, metallic waste and scrap, generator sets, cigarettes and tobacco products. Such items can only be imported after compliance with various mandatory requirements.

(c) The total volume of trade between the two countries is as below:-

(in US\$ million)

S. No.	Year	Exports	Imports	Total trade
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1.	2010-11	3606.40	446.75	4053.15
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2.	2011-12 (April-Jan)	2897.77	426.10	3323.87
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Source: DGCI&S

The most traded sectors are Textiles, Machinery and Instruments, Transport Equipment, Pharmaceuticals, Fruits and Vegetable, Jute, Metalifers ores & Metal scrap, Electronic Goods, Natural Rubber etc.

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) India has already reduced its sensitive list for Bangladesh from 480 to 25 items under South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement and has given zero basic custom duty on all the items removed vide notification no. 99/2011-Customs dated 9.11.2011. Priority sectors identified are Cotton, Jute, Textile products, Machinery and Instruments, Transport equipment, Pharmaceuticals, Fruits and Vegetables and others.