

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2443
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012
AGREEMENT WITH BAHRAIN
Mitra Shri Somendra Nath

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

- (a) whether India and Bahrain have recently signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement to promote economic and joint investments between the two countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum of total trade carried out between the two countries during the last three years, value-wise and commodity-wise;
- (d) whether any other agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed between India and Bahrain to promote trade and investments;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the likely outcome of these agreements and the present status thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. India and Bahrain have signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement on 31st May, 2012. The said Agreement is yet to enter into force as Bahrain is yet to notify to India the completion of procedures required for entry into force. The Agreement, after it enters into force, will enhance mutual co-operation in exchange of tax information.

(c) The quantum of total trade between India and Bahrain during the last three years is as under:

Value in US\$ (millions)

Sl. No. Particulars 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 (P)

1. Exports	250.2	651.8	446.5
2. Imports	502.9	641.3	882.7
3. Total Trade	753.1	1293.1	1329.2

PS: P- Provisional

The Commodity-wise information is Annexed.

(d) to (f) Bahrain is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Two Rounds of India, GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) Free Trade Agreement negotiations have been held so far in March, 2006 and September, 2008 after which no round has been held for more than 3 years and 11 months. As per the information furnished by Embassy of India in Riyadh, negotiations with all countries and economic groups have been deferred by GCC till it completes its review of the issue of negotiations. India has also entered into an agreement with Bahrain on the Promotion and Protection of Bilateral Investment (BIPA) with the objective to promote and protect the interests of investors of either country in the territory of other country.