

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:687

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012

CEPA WITH SRI LANKA

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

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

- (a) whether India is currently negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Sri Lanka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the contentious issues being considered by both the countries in this regard;
- (c) whether Sri Lanka is not in favour of entering into the CEPA with India despite having agreed to upgrade the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) into CEPA in 2000;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the likely impact of the same on India's access to Sri Lankan markets;
- (e) whether India has proposed any changes in the FTA with Sri Lanka;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the time by which the negotiation is likely to be completed and agreement finalized?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

- a) &b) India has proposed a comprehensive bilateral economic partnership with Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan Government is currently engaging its concerned stakeholders on this issue.
- c) No communication to this effect has been received from Sri Lankan Government.
- d) Does not arise.
- e) No, Madam.
- f) & g) Do not arise.