

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2243
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013
TRADE WITH SAARC NATIONS
Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji;Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) whether there has been a decline in the total trade carried out between India and other South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Nations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the total import and export carried out between India and the other member nations during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether India`s trade with other SAARC nations is affected due to the influence of China on them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the efforts being made by India to maintain the dominant role in the trade in this region;
- (e) whether the movement of goods to and from Bangladesh through Ghsanzadanga border has suffered due to the problem of loading and unloading resulting in a huge loss to traders; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken by the Government to ensure smooth flow of goods on the Bangladesh border?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

a) No, Madam.

b) A statement is annexed.

c) & d) In the recent years, the geographical proximity and economic growth of China have translated into growth of China's investment and interaction with all SAARC member countries. India's relations with other countries stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries.

e) & f) Transport disruptions due to political agitations, including hartals in Bangladesh had impact on movement of goods across some Land Customs Stations. Transport disruption was reported throughout the country with varying effect depending on the location, and was not specific to India-Bangladesh trade. With restoration of normalcy, the movement of goods was reported to have been restored.