

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3409
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
LOOK EAST POLICY
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) the status of developing the Look East Policy with the Association of South East Asian Nations to fast track trade and commerce with these countries;
- (b) the action plan to develop the North Eastern Region (NER) under this project;
- (c) whether certain NER States have requested for providing greater assistance to these States under the policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action plan to develop this sector?

Answer

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

- a) With a view to fast track trade and commerce with the Association of South East Asian Nations, India has signed Agreement on Trade in Goods under the broader framework of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and the ASEAN on 13.08.2009. India and the ASEAN have also concluded negotiations on Agreement on Trade in Services and Agreement on Investment in December, 2012. India has also entered into Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements with Singapore and Malaysia which came into effect on 01.08.2005 and 01.07.2011 respectively. India and Thailand have signed on 09.10.2003a Framework Agreement to expeditiously negotiate for establishing an India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement. There is an Early Harvest Scheme under this Framework Agreement which covers certain items for concessional trade. India and Thailand are presently negotiating a Comprehensive India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement. India and Indonesia have also agreed for negotiating a CECA.
- b) With a view to open up North Eastern Region as a part of Look East Policy, the focus will be on connectivity with the Region including land, sea and air connectivity. Access for the North Eastern Region to ASEAN and vice-versa will be promoted. With a view to promote exports from the North Eastern Region, a North East Cell has been set up in the Department of Commerce. An Export Development Fund (EDF) has been set up with the objective of promoting exports from the Region. Activities which have a linkage with exports from the region are eligible for assistance from the EDF such as setting up of pioneering/pilot projects aimed at exports, provision of equipment and machinery for the pioneering pilot projects aimed at export, creation of common facilities for boosting exports, facility for developing testing and standardization as well as quality improvement of export products besides funding trade delegations.
- c) Proposals have been received from NER States from time to time for providing greater assistance to these States.
- d) Under Export Development Fund for North Eastern Region 72 proposals have been approved for final assistance.