

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4144
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013
ECONOMIC TIES WITH ASEAN
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to forge deeper economic ties in various sectors with Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise, along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the likely benefits of such ties/relationship to the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Yes Madam. India and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries are forging deeper economic relations across multiple sectors covering trade, investment and services.

(b) With a view to forging deeper economic ties with the ASEAN, India has signed the 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 a 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.

(c) The bilateral trade Agreements would lead to growth in bilateral trade. Indian exporters would gain additional market access in these countries and Indian manufacturers would be able to source products at competitive prices from these markets. Investment would increase and Indian Professionals would gain access in the Services Sectors. This will result in increased business opportunities and closer economic co-operation with these countries.