

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2040

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013

TRADE RELATIONS WITH THAILAND

Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha ;Bali Ram Dr. ;Tandon Annu

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of new immigration policies of the United States of America (USA) on Indian businesses and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to redress the effect of the said policies of the USA;
- (c) whether Thailand and India are in the process of negotiating a free trade agreement covering trade in goods to boost stronger bilateral economic ties and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Thailand Board of Investment has opened overseas office in Mumbai to promote investment opportunities in India and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by both countries to facilitate trade and investment in each country?

Answer

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

- (a) The proposed U.S. Immigration Reform Bill (Bill S.744, The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act) is under the consideration of the US Congress and is yet to become a law. As informed by the industry, this Bill, in its current form, has several provisions that could potentially impact broad categories of Indian nationals who provide services in the US and the Indian IT companies with major businesses in the US. As this Bill is not yet a law it is not possible to assess the actual impact of the Bill on the Indian business.
- (b) In light of the likely potential impact of the proposed legislation in its current form, this Department has taken up the matter with the authorities in the USA and raised its concerns on the draft legislation.
- (c) Yes Madam, Thailand and India are in the process of negotiating a free trade agreement covering trade in goods.
- (d) No Madam. Thailand Board of Investment has not opened overseas office in Mumbai. However, a new post of Consul (Investment) has been approved within the premises of Royal Thai Consulate General, Mumbai.
- (e) India and Thailand have signed on 09.10.2003 a 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. An Investment Round Table was also held in Thailand on 19.05.2013 by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in association with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Embassy in Thailand and 'Invest India', a joint venture of company between Government of India and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).