

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:997
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013
RCEP AGREEMENT
Ray Shri Saugata

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the first round of negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the role played by India in such an agreement?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) Yes.

(b) India participated in the first meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Trade Negotiating Committee (RCEP-TNC) which was held on 9-13 May 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. RCEP is a comprehensive free trade agreement which is being negotiated between ten ASEAN member states and ASEAN's six FTA partners. India is amongst ASEAN's six FTA partners – the other countries are Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea. During the first RCEP-TNC meeting it was decided to establish three working groups viz. (i) Working Group on Trade in Goods, (ii) Working Group on Trade in Services and (iii) Working Group on Investment.