

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2943  
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014  
TRADE WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES  
Kumar Shri P.;Raghavan Shri M. K.

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

- (a) whether India and European Union is engaged in discussion for removal of tariff and non-tariff barrier in goods, investment and services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to widen its trade agreement with MERCOSUR Block comprising Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay with an aim to enhance economic relations with these countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has signed a preferential trade agreement with MERCOSUR and is looking at expanding its scope and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN)

(a) & (b) The Government of India is presently negotiating a bilateral Board Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with the European Union (EU), covering a number of tracks ranging from Trade in Goods to Services. So far fifteen rounds of negotiations have been held, the last being in May 2013 in New Delhi.

(c), (d) & (e) Yes, India has already signed a PTA with MERCOSUR (a trading block of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay in South America region) in 2004. The Indian list contains 450 items and the MERCOSUR list contains 452 items.

The India – MERCOSUR PTA came into operation from 1st June, 2009. Further, in recognition of growing importance of trade between India and MERCOSUR countries, through IBSA Declaration of 2006, it was agreed that the India- MERCOSUR PTA would be expanded by increasing the number of products to be covered for tariff concessions mutually agreed upon by each side. Accordingly, the process of expansion of India-MERCOSUR PTA and extending it to include Venezuela since it has joined MERCOSUR group in July, 2012 has been initiated.