

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3857
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009
NEGOTIATIONS FOR FTAs
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) whether the Government is currently negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with any of the foreign countries separately;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details regarding the nature of consultations held with the State Government and other stake holders in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. India is currently negotiating Free Trade agreements with the following countries:

Name of the Agreements under Negotiation Partner country

India-EU Trade and Investment Agreement Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus,
Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia Finland,
France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland,
Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg , Malta,
Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania,
Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,
United Kingdom.

India-European Free Trade Association Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland
(EFTA) Negotiations on broad based Bilateral
Trade and Investment Agreement

India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Japan
Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations)

India-Sri Lanka Comprehensive Economic Sri Lanka
Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations

India-Thailand Comprehensive Economic Thailand
Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations

India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Malaysia
Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi- Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka,
Sectoral Technical and Economic Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal
Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Free Trade
Agreement (FTA) negotiations

India-Gulf Cooperation Council Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain,
(GCC) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations Qatar and Yemen

India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) negotiations Mauritius

India-SACU Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) negotiations South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia

(c) Government gives utmost importance to the consultations with Administrative Ministries, State Governments, Industry Associations and other stake holders. Consultations are held at important centers of trade and industry across the country. Main purpose of such consultations is to identify products to which the domestic industry and farmers are sensitive to imports at reduced rate of duty. On such products limited or no tariff concession is offered to the FTA partner. Consultations also identify products which domestic industry wants to export to the FTA partner.