

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:450
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015
MFN status of India
Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of countries, including the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations who have given Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India;
- (b) whether India has given MFN status to any of the foreign countries, including that of SAARC nations, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the direct benefits of the MFN status obtained and/or accorded by India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) As per the obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO), the member countries of WTO shall extend Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to each other automatically, unless otherwise specified in the agreement or schedule notified to the WTO by the member country. Pursuant to this Provision, in case of goods, India has extended MFN status to member countries of WTO. As regards SAARC countries, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are members of WTO and except the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, these countries have extended MFN status to India. India has extended MFN status to all these SAARC countries including Pakistan. So far as exception to MFN status, if any, in services is concerned, each member country has indicated the same in the schedule of commitments in services notified to WTO.

(c) It leads to equal treatment amongst countries and ensures more stable, predictable, reliable and competitive international trade.
