

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2481

ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh;Vanaroja Smt. R.;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether India has joined or proposes to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and if so, the details thereof along with the benefits likely to accrue therefrom;
- (b) whether the next round of RCEP negotiations is likely to be held in Australia and if so, the details thereof along with the strategy prepared by the Government for the said negotiations;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations from several trade experts/exporters opposing the RCEP agreement and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken by the Government on these representations; and
- (d) whether India has been told either agree to eliminate tariffs on most products quickly or leave the talks on the proposed Free Trade Agreement being negotiated by the RCEP and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed comprehensive Free Trade Agreement which is being negotiated between ten ASEAN member states namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and their six FTA partners namely India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. The RCEP is intended to facilitate and thereby increase goods and services trade as well as investment flows amongst the participating countries.

b) and (c) The 12th round of negotiations under RCEP were held from 22– 29 April, 2016 in Perth, Australia. The government consults stakeholders' on a regular basis and takes into account their inputs. The strategy in the 12th RCEP Round was to look at addressing both the domestic sensitivities and export interest of India in the various areas under RCEP.

d) No Madam, there has been no such suggestion.
