

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4414
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014
TRADE AGREEMENT WITH AFRICA
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) the details of the bilateral trade between India and Africa during each of the last three years and the current year, itemwise;
- (b) whether the Government has negotiated with Southern African Customs Union (SACU) for Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA);
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it is likely to be different from the Free Trade Agreement (FTA);
- (d) whether the Government is exploring possibilities for having such agreement with African Regional Communities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which negotiations are likely to be completed in this regard and expected increase in exports as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) : The details of the bilateral trade between India and Africa during each of the last three years and the current year are as under:

S. No.	Year/Activity	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Apr-Jun
	(P) 2014 (P)				
1	India`s Export to Africa	24,674	29,142	31,230	8,594
2	India`s Import from Africa	44,104	41,110	36,842	10,271
3	India's Total Trade with Africa	68,778	70,253	68,072	18,865

(Value in million USD)

(P): Provisional

(b) and (c): Yes, Madam. Government of India has been negotiating with the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) which comprises of South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Namibia for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). Five rounds of negotiations have been held so far.

(d) and (e): Yes, Madam. Currently, the Government is exploring the possibilities for having Free Trade Agreements with two Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Africa i.e. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The details are as follows:

i) India-COMESA: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is Africa's largest economic community comprising of 19 member states namely Burundi, Comoros, DR Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Swaziland, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. A Joint Study Group (JSG) has been set up to examine the feasibility of a FTA between India and COMESA. The 1st meeting of the India-COMESA JSG was held in Lusaka on 30-31st July, 2012.

ii) India-ECOWAS: ECOWAS comprises of 15 member states namely Benin, Burkina Faso, CÃ´te d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Cape Verde. No specific time frame has been laid down to complete these negotiations.