

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3184

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016

Indo-EU Trade Talks

Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Antony Shri Anto ;Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the share of the European Union (EU) in India's total trade has progressively shrunk in the recent years and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Indian exports to the EU have also shrunk in 2014-15 and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether India's expiring bilateral treaties/investment pacts with many EU member nations has been one of the main reasons for suspension of trade and investment talks between India and the EU and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the lack of a suitable agreement in place of the earlier treaties has been a serious concern for the Government and if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement with EU has been pending for a long time and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government to remove the bottlenecks?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No, Madam. The share of European Union (EU) in India's total trade has been consistent during recent years at around 13% of India's total trade and India's share of exports to EU has also been consistent during the recent years at around 16% of India's total exports.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) The Government framed a model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) Text in 2015 to re-negotiate with partner countries. Accordingly, termination notices of existing BITs were issued to various countries, including 22 EU member states in 2016.

(e) India-EU BTIA negotiations started in 2007 and 16 rounds of the negotiations had been held till 2013, after which EU withdrew from the negotiations. Recently, four stocktaking meetings on India-EU BTIA have been held on 18th Jan, 2016 (in New Delhi), 22nd Feb, 2016 (in Brussels), 15th July, 2016 (in New Delhi) and 9th Nov., 2016 (in New Delhi). India has expressed its willingness to resume negotiations in these meetings and is committed to an early and balanced outcome of the India-EU BTIA negotiations.
