

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4567
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014
TRADE AGREEMENT WITH GCC
Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

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

- (a) whether the Government has signed or negotiating Free Trade Agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in this regard;
- (c) the important points included in the said FTA to maintain trade balance;
- (d) whether there is any adverse effect on the petro-chemical industry of the country due to the import of the petrochemicals from the gulf-countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether this aspect has been taken care of in this trade agreement and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes. India is negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- (b) & (c) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) consists of six (06) countries - Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain & Qatar. So far two rounds of negotiations have been held. The first round was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 21st – 22nd March, 2006 and the second was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 9th – 10th September, 2008. The third round of negotiations was to be held in India during 2009, as per the decision taken during the 2nd round of negotiations. However, GCC Secretariat informed that the negotiations with all countries and economic groups, have been deferred until GCC States completely reviews the issue of negotiations. It was further informed that the Secretariat General would inform India, the appropriate date to resume negotiations, as soon as GCC countries decide in the matter.
- (d) & (e) During the course of negotiations, the views of concerned Departments are obtained in taking a decision regarding tariff concessions, if any, to be granted.