

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1577

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29TH JULY 2025

OPENING OF INDIAN MARKET FOR BRITISH PRODUCTS

1577. Shri Sachithanantham R:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the response of the Government to the farmers concern that opening the Indian market for British products, including its agricultural products, with virtually no tariffs or restrictions may affect negatively livelihoods of millions of Indian farmers and also the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to have more FTAs with other countries and negotiations underway, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government will protect the interests of the farmers by not proceeding with FTAs if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): India is actively pursuing trade negotiations with several countries and regional blocs to expand its global trade footprint and enhance competitiveness of Indian exports. At present, Negotiations are ongoing on the India–European Union Free Trade Agreement, India–Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, India–Sri Lanka Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement, India–Peru Free Trade Agreement, India–Chile Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, India–USA Bilateral Trade Agreement and a similar approach has been followed while dealing with the UK to safeguard the interests of farmers and secure market access for our agri-products.

In order to protect the interests of the farmers and domestic industry, including MSMEs, FTAs provide for maintaining sensitive, negative or exclusion lists of items on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted. In addition, in case of surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take recourse to trade remedial measures such as anti-dumping and safeguards on imports within the period as mutually agreed to by the parties under the FTAs. Likewise Rules of Origin, including product-specific rules are developed with stakeholder consultations. FTAs include provisions on Technical Barriers to Trade to promote mutual understanding of each sides' standards, technical regulations, and measures to enhance transparency. Additionally, FTAs address non-technical barriers, thereby facilitating smoother and more effective access to export markets for Indian goods. FTAs include sub-committees for review to align with emerging global requirements.
