

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6837

ANSWERED ON:09.05.2003

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH SINGAPORE

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH
DEO;GADDE RAMAMOHAN;KAILASH MEGHWAL;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SHYAMA SINGH

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned `Singapore PM's visit set to boost trade ties' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 8, 2003;
- (b) if so, whether any discussion was held with Singapore Prime Minister to boost trade ties with Singapore;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the details of trade agreement signed with Singapore premier during his visit?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Discussions were held on the presentation of a Report by the India-Singapore Joint Study Group on the feasibility of concluding a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between the two countries. The Group was set up following discussions between the two Prime Ministers in April 2002 when our Prime Minister had visited Singapore.

(c) & (d) A Joint Declaration of Intent to initiate the negotiations on the CECA and an MOU providing for India-Singapore collaboration in extending technical assistance to the new ASEAN - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam in the framework of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), were signed during the visit. No Trade Agreement was, however, signed.