

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2640
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003
TRADE AGREEMENTS
ALE NARENDRA

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

- (a) the details of trade agreements/MOUs signed by the Union Government with various countries during 2002-2003 and the current year till date with a view to promote bilateral trade and export of various items, particularly food items, spices and cash crops;
- (b) whether export of these items has increased as a result thereof;
- (c) if so, to what extent; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) A list of Trade Agreements/MOUs signed by the Union Government with various countries with a view to promote bilateral trade and export of various items including food items, spices and cash crops during the year 2002-03 and the current year till date are annexed.

(b), (c) and (d) These Agreements/MOUs are in operation for too short a period to make any assessment of their impact on the export of various items. It may, however, be mentioned that the Agreements which have been entered into with various countries in the past has the effect of lowering down barriers to trade among the contracting parties and thereby give impetus to trade.

List of Trade Agreements/MOUs signed by the Union Government with various countries during year 2002-03 and the current year till date with a view to promote bilateral trade and exports of various items:

1. Bilateral Trade Agreement signed with Swaziland on 18th April, 2002.
2. Trade Agreement signed with Bosnia and Herzegovina on 23rd April, 2002.
3. Trade Agreement signed with the Royal Government of Cambodia on 6th November, 2002.
4. India-Afghanistan Preferential Trade Agreement signed with the Government of Afghanistan on 6th March, 2003.
5. Bilateral Trade Agreement signed with Zambia on 21st April, 2003.
6. A Framework Agreement signed with Mercosur (a trade block of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) on 16th June, 2003.
7. Agreements relating to trade signed with the People's of Republic of China during Prime Minister's visit to China during 22nd -27th June, 2003:
 - A Memorandum on expanding Border Trade.
 - A Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for exporting Mangoes from India to China.
 - A Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation including, inter-alia, the following elements pertaining to trade:
 - The importance of Ministerial meeting of the Joint Economic Group.
 - Setting up of a Compact Joint Study Group composed of officials and economists to examine the potential of complementarities between the two countries in expanding trade and economic cooperation.
8. An MOU on the establishment of Joint Trade Committee signed with the Government of Union of Myanmar on 14th July, 2003.

