

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6734
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005
FTA WITH WTO COUNTRIES
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) the names of countries who are at present members of WTO;
- (b) whether the Government has signed any free trade agreement with WTO member countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of agreements signed so far, separately; and
- (d) the list of commodities which are accorded any duty concessions?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a): A statement indicating the names of the Members of WTO is enclosed as Annexure-I.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d): Bilateral Free Trade Agreement was signed between India and Sri Lanka in New Delhi on 28th December,1998 and has been in operation since March,2000. The agreement seeks to establish a Free Trade Area (FTA) through elimination of tariffs in a phased manner as under:-

(1). India`s Commitments: India would reduce tariffs to zero on 1350 tariff lines immediately on implementation of the Agreement. For the rest, except 429 items included in the Negative List, across the board duty free access would be given over a period of 3 years from the date of implementation of the Agreement. There is a tariff rate quota on tea for 15 million kgs. and on garments for 8 million pieces. From 18th March 2003, India`s commitment of duty reduction has been completed. The items in the Negative List of 429 tariff lines at 6 digit level of Harmonised Code are from various sectors like rubber and rubber products, paper and paper boards, plastics and products thereof, coconuts, alcoholic beverages and textile items, etc.

(2). Sri Lanka`s Commitments: Sri Lanka would give 100% duty concessions on 319 tariff lines on the date of operationalisation of the Agreement. In addition, it has given 50% tariff concessions on 839 tariff lines on the date of operationalisation of the Agreement which has been deepened to 100% as on today. For the remaining items, Sri Lanka would reduce tariffs to zero percent over a period of 8 years in three phases i.e. by 35% & 70% & 100% before the expiry of 3rd, 6th and 8th year respectively. In other words, India`s exports on these items get 35% duty concessions from Sri Lanka as on today. Sri Lanka`s Negative List comprises of 1180 tariff lines.

ANNEXURE-1

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question NO. 6734 for answer on 10.05.2005.

148 members of the World Trade Organisation

S.No. Member Date of Membership/ Accession

1. Albania 8 September 2000
2. Angola 23 November 1996
3. Antigua and Barbuda 1 January 1995
4. Argentina 1 January 1995

5. Armenia 5 February 2003
6. Australia 1 January 1995

7. Austria 1 January 1995

8. Bahrain, Kingdom of 1 January 1995

9. Bangladesh 1 January 1995
10. Barbados 1 January 1995
11. Belgium 1 January 1995
12. Belize 1 January 1995
13. Benin 22 February 1996
14. Bolivia 12 September 1995
15. Botswana 31 May 1995
16. Brazil 1 January 1995
17. Brunei Darussalam 1 January 1995
18. Bulgaria 1 December 1996
19. Burkina Faso 3 June 1995
20. Burundi 23 July 1995
21. Cambodia 13 October 2004
22. Cameroon 13 December 1995
23. Canada 1 January 1995
24. Central African Republic 31 May 1995
25. Chad 19 October 1996
26. Chile 1 January 1995
27. China 11 December 2001
28. Colombia 30 April 1995
29. Congo 27 March 1997
30. Costa Rica 1 January 1995
31. CÔte d'Ivoire 1 January 1995
32. Croatia 30 November 2000
33. Cuba 20 April 1995
34. Cyprus 30 July 1995
35. Czech Republic 1 January 1995
36. Democratic Republic
of the Congo 1 January 1997
37. Denmark 1 January 1995
38. Djibouti 31 May 1995
39. Dominica 1 January 1995
40. Dominican Republic 9 March 1995
41. Ecuador 21 January 1996
42. Egypt 30 June 1995
43. El Salvador 7 May 1995
44. Estonia 13 November 1999
45. European Communities 1 January 1995
46. Fiji 14 January 1996
47. Finland 1 January 1995
48. Former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia (FYROM) 4 April 2003
49. France 1 January 1995
50. Gabon 1 January 1995
51. The Gambia 23 October 1996
52. Georgia 14 June 2000
53. Germany 1 January 1995
54. Ghana 1 January 1995
55. Greece 1 January 1995
56. Grenada 22 February 1996
57. Guatemala 21 July 1995
58. Guinea 25 October 1995
59. Guinea Bissau 31 May 1995
60. Guyana 1 January 1995
61. Haiti 30 January 1996
62. Honduras 1 January 1995
63. Hong Kong, China 1 January 1995
64. Hungary 1 January 1995
65. Iceland 1 January 1995
66. India 1 January 1995
67. Indonesia 1 January 1995
68. Ireland 1 January 1995
69. Israel 21 April 1995
70. Italy 1 January 1995
71. Jamaica 9 March 1995
72. Japan 1 January 1995
73. Jordan 11 April 2000
74. Kenya 1 January 1995
75. Korea, Republic of 1 January 1995
76. Kuwait 1 January 1995
77. Kyrgyz Republic 20 December 1998
78. Latvia 10 February 1999
79. Lesotho 31 May 1995
80. Liechtenstein 1 September 1995

81. Lithuania 31 May 2001
82. Luxembourg 1 January 1995
83. Macao, China 1 January 1995
84. Madagascar 17 November 1995
85. Malawi 31 May 1995
86. Malaysia 1 January 1995
87. Maldives 31 May 1995
88. Mali 31 May 1995
89. Malta 1 January 1995
90. Mauritania 31 May 1995
91. Mauritius 1 January 1995
92. Mexico 1 January 1995
93. Moldova 26 July 2001
94. Mongolia 29 January 1997
95. Morocco 1 January 1995
96. Mozambique 26 August 1995
97. Myanmar 1 January 1995
98. Namibia 1 January 1995
99. Nepal 23 April 2004
100. Netherlands 1 January 1995
101. New Zealand 1 January 1995
102. Nicaragua 3 September 1995
103. Niger 13 December 1996
104. Nigeria 1 January 1995
105. Norway 1 January 1995
106. Oman 9 November 2000
107. Pakistan 1 January 1995
108. Panama 6 September 1997
109. Papua New Guinea 9 June 1996
110. Paraguay 1 January 1995
111. Peru 1 January 1995
112. Philippines 1 January 1995
113. Poland 1 July 1995
114. Portugal 1 January 1995
115. Qatar 13 January 1996
116. Romania 1 January 1995
117. Rwanda 22 May 1996
118. Saint Kitts and Nevis 21 February 1996
119. Saint Lucia 1 January 1995
120. Saint Vincent & the
Grenadines 1 January 1995
121. Senegal 1 January 1995
122. Sierra Leone 23 July 1995
123. Singapore 1 January 1995
124. Slovak Republic 1 January 1995
125. Slovenia 30 July 1995
126. Solomon Islands 26 July 1996
127. South Africa 1 January 1995
128. Spain 1 January 1995
129. Sri Lanka 1 January 1995
130. Suriname 1 January 1995
131. Swaziland 1 January 1995
132. Sweden 1 January 1995
133. Switzerland 1 July 1995
134. Chinese Taipei 1 January 2002
135. Tanzania 1 January 1995
136. Thailand 1 January 1995
137. Togo 31 May 1995
138. Trinidad and Tobago 1 March 1995
139. Tunisia 29 March 1995
140. Turkey 26 March 1995
141. Uganda 1 January 1995
142. United Arab Emirates 10 April 1996
143. United Kingdom 1 January 1995
144. United States of America 1 January 1995
145. Uruguay 1 January 1995
146. Venezuela 1 January 1995
147. Zambia 1 January 1995
148. Zimbabwe 5 March 1995