

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3069  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005  
TRADE RELATION WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES  
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

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

- (a) whether Trade and Economic Relations Committee (TERC) at its recent meeting held in October, 2005, decided to be more proactive in increasing interaction with neighbouring countries especially the less developed countries;
- (b) if so, the exports, imports and balance of trade to each of these countries during the last three years and thereafter, country-wise; and
- (c) the targets, fixed, for the trade and strategy with respect to each of these less developed countries alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes Sir. The Trade and Economic Relations Committee (TERC) under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, in its recent meeting held in October, 2005 decided to enhance the level of economic engagements with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan.

(b) The export-import and trade balance with all the above three countries are as follows :-

IN US\$ Million

Year    Bangladesh    Myanmar    Pakistan

Import    Export    Trade    Import    Export    Trade    Import    Export    Trade  
Balance    Balance    Balance

2002-03	62.05	1176	1113.95	336.04	75.07	-260.97	44.85	206.16	161.31
2003-04	62.24	1646.08	1583.84	409.01	89.64	-319.37	57.74	286.55	228.81
2004-05	54.88	1586.18	1531.30	398.54	109.73	-288.81	95.33	505.44	410.11

(c) The proposed initiatives intend to address the market access issue of the goods from the above three countries. The initiatives have been finalized for Bangladesh and Pakistan under the framework of South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA). SAFTA will be implemented from 1st January, 2006. For Myanmar, the initiatives are being discussed under the Bay of Bengal Initiative of Multisectoral Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Grouping. It is expected that these initiatives would improve the trade relations with our less developed neighbouring countries.