

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1021
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005
TRADE RELATION WITH SAARC COUNTRIES
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

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

- (a) Whether India's trade with SAARC countries has increased during each of the last three years;
(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and country-wise; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to further strengthen the trade relation with SAARC Countries?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Details are given below:

(Figures in US \$ million)

Country 2002-2003 2003-2004 2004-2005

Export Import Export Import Export Import
& % & % & %G & %
Growth Growth Growth Growth

Bangladesh	1176.00	62.05	1740.75	77.63	1586.18	54.88
	(48.02)	(25.10)	(-8.88)	(-29.30)		
Sri Lanka	920.98	90.83	1319.20	194.74	1353.75	364.25
	(43.24)	(114.41)	(2.62)	(87.05)		
Nepal	350.36	281.76	669.36	286.04	728.46	340.02
	(91.05)	(1.52)	(8.83)	(18.87)		
Pakistan	206.16	44.85	286.94	57.65	505.44	95.33
	(39.18)	(28.54)	(76.15)	(65.36)		
Bhutan	39.05	32.15	89.49	52.37	84.03	50.14
	(129.20)	(62.88)	(-6.10)	(-4.26)		
Maldives	31.59	0.33	42.34	0.37	42.51	0.58
	(34.03)	(12.12)	(0.40)	(56.25)		
Total :	2724.14	511.97	4148.08	668.80	4300.37	905.20

Total Trade 3236.11 4816.88 5205.57
with SAARC
countries

Data Source: DGCI & S Kolkata (Supplied by NIC, DOC)

India's total trade with SAARC countries increased from US\$ 4816.88 million in 2003-2004 to US\$ 5205.57 million in 2004-2005 registering an increase of 8.07%.

(c) India has bilateral trade agreements with SAARC Member States except Pakistan. India and Pakistan have set up a Joint Study Group (JSG) at the level of Commerce Secretaries as part of strategy for boosting trade between the two countries and its first meeting was held in New Delhi on February 22-23, 2005.

During the Twelfth SAARC Summit held in Islamabad on 4-6 January, 2004 South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement was signed. The Agreement provides for a phased tariff liberalization programme and is scheduled to come into force from 1 January, 2006.

Implementation of SAFTA is expected to further strengthen our trade relations with SAARC countries.