

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1776

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004

INDIA GCC AGREEMENT

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Mahajan Shri Y.G.;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Rawale Shri Mohan

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

- (a) whether India and the Gulf Cooperation Council(GCC) have signed a framework agreement on economic cooperation to give fillip to existing commercial and economic ties between the two countries;
- (b) if so, whether the Commerce Ministry and the Foreign Ministry of Kuwait, Chairman on Behalf of GCC, signed the agreement in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details of the agreement;
- (d) extent to which India and Gulf Cooperation Council have started implementing this agreement;
- (e) whether some gulf countries have imposed restrictions on the import of food items from India; and
- (f) if so, reasons for restrictions and steps taken to obviate such restrictions?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c): Yes, Sir. India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have signed a Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation (FAC). The Agreement was jointly signed by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, the Foreign Minister of Kuwait, in his capacity of President of GCC and Secretary-General of GCC on the 25th August, 2004 in New Delhi. The Agreement aims at expansion and liberalisation of trade and enhancement of the level of economic cooperation between India and the GCC.

(d) As a follow-up of the signing of the Agreement, a feasibility study on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two sides has been entrusted to the National Centre for Trade Information(NCTI), New Delhi. Discussions were held with a GCC delegation in New Delhi on 19th November, 2004, in which both sides inter alia agreed to continue the process of dialogue in the context of the provisions of the Agreement.

(e) & (f); Yes, Sir. Saudi Arabia has imposed restrictions on the import of some food items from India on health, phyto-sanitary and religious grounds. Government have taken up the issue with the Saudi Arabian Government at all bilateral fora dealing with economic and commercial issues.