

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:389  
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2006  
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS  
Nayak Smt. Archana

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

- (a) the extent of the country's trade with Gulf/West Asia/African Countries;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to negotiate with the Gulf Cooperation Council on Free Trade Agreement and with West Asian and African countries on investment promotion agreement;
- (c) if so, the details of benefits likely to be accrued as a result of these agreements; and
- (d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to materialize these agreements?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.389 FOR ANSWER ON 19TH DECEMBER, 2006 REGARDING `TRADE NEGOTIATIONS`

(a)As per the data bank of DGCIS, Kolkata, value of India's trade with the Gulf / West Asia / African countries amounted to \$36856.94 million during the year 2005-2006.

(b)Yes, Sir.

(c) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) are facilitative mechanisms for promotion of two way flow of trade and investment.

(d) One round of negotiations between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council on the proposed FTA has already been held. Correspondence has been exchanged with Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates in furtherance of negotiations with them on BIPA.