

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3923
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2006
INDIA S TRADE WITH GULF COUNTRIES
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Maheshwari Smt. Kiran

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

- (a) the status of India`s trade with Gulf countries during the last three years;
- (b) whether India`s trade with Gulf countries has increased during the current year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government during 11th Five Year Plan for further promotion of trade with the Gulf countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) As per the trade data compiled by DGCIS, Kolkata, the commodity trade turnover between India and the six Gulf countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 amounted to \$10319.62 million, \$16878.45 million and \$19480.51 million respectively.

(b)&(c)Yes, Sir. The commodity trade turnover between India and the Gulf countries during April - August, 2006 amounted to \$9252.92 million as compared to \$7762.89 million during the corresponding period last year.

(d)Negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with the Gulf countries has been initiated. The existing bilateral facilitative mechanisms like Joint Commissions and Joint Business Councils have been geared up to promote bilateral trade and strengthen business to business contacts.