

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1066
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
CUSTOM DUTY CENTRES
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to improve regional trade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount likely to be spent in this regard; and
- (d) the number of custom-duty centres functioning on land routes at the borders of the country at present?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) It is the endeavour of the Govt. to improve regional trade. To improve cross border regional trade in South Asia, the Govt. had concluded a Free Trade Agreement

(FTA) with Srilanka in December 1998 which is in operation since March 2000. South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) was concluded on 6th January, 2004 and is in operation since 1st January, 2006. India also has free trade arrangement with Bhutan & Nepal. We are also investing in upgradation of the infrastructure at the Land Customs Station.

(d) There are 75 functioning Land Customs Station in the country at present.