

relations with neighbouring countries, the Government of India has signed the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). India also provides preferential trade exchange to the neighbouring countries under Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) as well as under Duty Free Tariff Preferential (DFTP) Scheme. Besides, GDI has a number of bilateral agreements and discussions which helps deliberating upon and resolving certain vexed issues relating to trade and nontrade barriers. Several other initiatives for facilitating trade such as exchange of trade delegations, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organisation of buyers sellers meets are also organized/facilitated from time to time.

(c) The details of import and export to the neighbouring countries during the last years, value-wise is given below:-

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Country	2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009 (April-Feb)	
		Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
1.	Bangladesh	7365.97	1033.91	11743.21	1034.68	10307.59	1341.61
2.	Bhutan	260.19	640.00	348.86	782.60	442.74	631.71
3.	Maldives	310.96	13.83	360.55	16.70	561.84	16.69
4.	Nepal	4201.38	1384.51	6063.48	2527.26	5979.70	2058.09
5.	Pakistan	6106.88	1462.73	7827.37	1158.72	5875.09	1545.39
6.	Sri Lanka	10206.38	2129.56	11374.29	2540.92	10263.50	1376.97
7.	China	37529.78	79008.61	43597.42	109116.07	35262.83	127938.92
8.	Myanmar	633.75	3540.95	746.19	3259.28	934.18	3682.25

(Source DGCI & S)

Impact of retail stores/malls on trade fairs

†1954. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retail stores/mall culture is having its adverse effect on the annual trade fairs being organized in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where annual trade fairs are being organized alongwith the facilities being provided to them by the Central Government;

(d) whether there is any scheme for providing subsidy and other financial assistance to the States by the Central Government to save and preserve the practice of organizing trade fairs by the States; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No such report has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Annual Trade fairs are conducted all over the country by the various trade promotion organizations. Government of India provides assistance for export promotion projects to the eligible agencies including the State Governments through the Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme of the Department of Commerce. Financial assistance is also provided to the State Governments for the creation of infrastructure under the Assistance to States for Developing Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme. The Details of these schemes are available on the website of Department of Commerce at <http://commerce.nic.in/>.

Ludhiana easiest city in India to start trade and industry

†1955. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether Government has taken notice of the report issued by World Bank and International Finance Corporation on starting trade and industry in India;

(b) if so, whether according to report starting of trade and industry in Ludhiana has been thought to be easiest in India;

(c) if so, whether Government agrees with the aforesaid statement in the above report;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(e) whether Government will encourage other State Governments to create a situation like Ludhiana in major cities in their respective States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The study is an independent evaluation of the business environment in 17 cities in India by the Doing Business Unit of the World Bank Group. It indicates areas where states can initiate measures to reduce times, costs and procedures related to starting and operating business.

(e) The Government of India is making concerted efforts on continuous basis to reform in business regulations in the country. It encourages State Governments to take regulatory reforms including replication of national and international best practices in States.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.