

Country in South Asia	2017-18		2018-19 (April - May) (Provisional)	
	Indian Exports	Imports into India	Indian Exports	Imports into India
Afghanistan	709.75	433.78	119.38	50.67
Bangladesh	8,460.34	685.64	1,419.49	134.41
Bhutan	541.69	373.35	113.78	44.03
Maldives	217	5.68	39.05	0.64
Nepal	6,597.09	438.38	1,297.21	65.31
Pakistan	1,924.31	488.56	405.66	65.14
Sri Lanka	4,476.33	772.64	676.27	143.17
TOTAL	22,926.51	3,198.02	4,070.84	503.37

Data Source: DGCIS database

(b) The Government has taken various steps for increasing bilateral trade with neighbouring countries in South Asia. Efforts have been made to improve the trade infrastructure which, *inter-alia*, include upgradation of Land Customs Stations, establishment of Integrated Check Posts/Border Haats, facilitation of bilateral and sub-regional connectivity, etc. Trade liberalisation is being carried out under SAFTA by India/ other SAARC countries to encourage enhanced trade. The Government also continues to engage pro-actively with SAARC countries to strengthen trade and economic relations. Bilateral and multilateral trade discussions, held with these countries from time to time, explore mechanisms for enhancement of trade. Further, assistance is provided under Market Access Initiative (MAI) to Indian exporters, Export Promotion Councils, apex trade-bodies etc., for enhancing exports through participation in events in foreign countries, including countries in neighbourhood.

Formulation of new Industrial Policy

51. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is formulating new Industrial Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the details of steps taken to set up more industries in rural areas; and
- (d) what is the policy of Government to provide assistance to educated rural youths for setting up industry under the 'Make in India' programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is in the process of formulating a new Industrial Policy. The proposed vision is to create a globally competitive Indian industry driven by innovation, speed and ease, competitiveness, quality and sustainability. The underlying goals include advancing India as leader in emerging technologies, increasing technological depth in Indian industry, reducing environmental footprint of industry and increasing employment avenues in industry.

(c) and (d) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is implementing Plan schemes for providing special incentives for industrially less developed regions like the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. 'Make in India' initiative aims to make India a hub for manufacturing, design and innovation. It focuses on infrastructure, simplified processes, job creation, skill development and fostering innovation in select thrust sectors. This initiative is based on four pillars of New processes, New infrastructure, New sectors and New mindset, which have been identified to give boost not only to manufacturing but also in other sectors. In addition to the opening up of new sectors and enhancement of caps for existing sectors, various conditionalities for foreign investments have also been simplified. The Government has also taken up a series of measures to improve Ease of Doing Business. The emphasis has been on simplification and rationalization of the existing rules and introduction of information technology to make governance more efficient and effective.

Blocking of WTO ministerial declaration agreement

52. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the US has alleged that India blocked the ministerial declaration agreement of World Trade Organization;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Marrakesh Agreement was not in India's interest; and