

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir, however, the scheme has not yet been made operational.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of above.

(d) The incentives being provided to Startups under Startup India initiative are given below:—

- (i) Self-Certification under 6 Labour Laws & 3 Environmental Laws
- (ii) Relaxations in Public Procurement Norms
- (iii) Faster exit under the Bankruptcy Code
- (iv) Rebates on Patent and Trademark filing fees, support from facilitators and expedited examination of Patent application
- (v) Income Tax exemption
- (vi) Exemption from Income Tax on investments received above fair market value
- (vii) Funding support under the Fund of Funds for Startups
- (viii) Guidance and facilitation support from Startup India Hub

Trade with Pakistan and other SAARC countries

1124. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) what is India's balance of trade with SAARC countries;
- (b) whether the disturbance in relations with Pakistan has affected the trade balance with Pakistan; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to improve the trade relations with Pakistan and other SAARC countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) India maintains a trade surplus with all SAARC countries, as shown in the data below:—

Value in USD million						
SAARC Country	2016-2017			2017-2018		
	Indian Exports	Imports into India	India's Balance of Trade	Indian Exports	Imports into India	India's Balance of Trade
Afghanistan	506.34	292.9	213.44	709.75	433.78	275.97
Bangladesh	6,820.11	701.68	6,118.43	8,614.35	685.65	7,928.70
Bhutan	509.28	307.82	201.46	546.12	377.99	168.13
Maldives	197.79	9.17	188.62	217	5.68	211.32
Nepal	5,453.59	445.13	5,008.46	6,612.96	438.38	6,174.58
Pakistan	1,821.87	454.49	1,367.38	1,924.28	488.56	1,435.72
Sri Lanka	3,913.15	602.2	3,310.95	4,476.46	772.63	3,703.83
TOTAL	19,222.14	2,813.40	16,408.74	23,100.90	3,202.66	19,898.24

Data Source: DGCIS database.

Although the prevailing political relations between India and Pakistan affect the policy framework of the bilateral trade, the above data indicates that India continues to enjoy substantial trade surplus with Pakistan.

The Government has made several efforts to improve trade relations with Pakistan. In the 7th round of Commerce Secretary level talks with Pakistan, held in September 2012 in Islamabad, a roadmap was agreed for facilitating trade, identifying several actions to be taken by both the countries in a time bound manner. The agreed roadmap could not be implemented since Pakistan did not notify the removal of trade restrictions through Wagah-Attari land route (the first step identified in the roadmap). The Commerce Ministers of India and Pakistan met in January 2014 on the sidelines of the 5th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave held at New Delhi. Both Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to expeditiously establish normal trading relations and in this context to provide Non-Discriminatory Market Access (NDMA), on a reciprocal basis. Both sides decided to intensify and accelerate the process of trade normalisation, liberalisation and facilitation and to implement the agreed measures. In the meeting between Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan on 27th May 2014, India stated that the two countries could move immediately towards full trade normalisation on the basis of

September 2012 roadmap worked out between the Commerce Secretaries of both countries. No bilateral trade meeting between India and Pakistan has taken place since then. However, issues adversely affecting Indian exports have been taken up with Pakistan through diplomatic channel.

The Government has also taken various steps for improving bilateral trade with other SAARC countries. Efforts have been made to improve the trade infrastructure which, *inter-alia*, include upgradation of Land Customs Stations, establishment of Integrated Check Posts, establishment of Border Haats, facilitation of bilateral and sub-regional connectivity, etc. 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 scheme to Indian exporters, Export Promotion Councils, apex trade bodies etc., for enhancing exports through participation in events in foreign countries, including SAARC countries.

Fluctuation in FDI inflow

1125. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a fluctuation in FDI inflow, which has become a matter of great concern;
- (b) if so, the details of FDI inflow since 2014;
- (c) whether Government proposes to take any steps to increase the FDI inflow;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) There has been unprecedented increase in FDI inflows in the country since 2014-15. It has increased from USD 45.15 billion in 2014-15 to USD 60.97 billion in 2017-18. The financial year wise details of FDI inflow, since 2014, are as under:—