

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2781
ANSWERED ON- 19/12/2024

NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

2781. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the actions Government is taking to strengthen national defence in light of recent global security challenges;
- (b) the manner in which Government is working with international allies to ensure peace and stability in the region; and
- (c) the update on India's position regarding ongoing international trade negotiations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a & b) The ensuring of India's national security is the result of cumulative and coordinated endeavors of many parts of the Government.

The Government of India has focussed on furthering our national interests while contributing to the global good through retaining flexibility and strategic autonomy, and deepening cooperation with partners and key stakeholders, especially in a changing global environment. Security challenges are addressed through building up our national defence and security capabilities, buttressed by participation in relevant regional and international bodies, initiatives and frameworks.

Our global engagement has seen India emerge as a responsible and constructive actor on the world stage, and as an active participant in global conversations on climate change, terrorism, connectivity and maritime security.

In recent years, India's role in our extended neighbourhood has been that of a 'net security provider', seen not only in the context of hard security, but also being at the forefront of extending humanitarian assistance during natural disasters. Our multipronged approach has been to work with partners and relevant states to build capacity and secure safety and security in the region – through bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral engagements.

(c) India is currently negotiating the following FTAs with its trading partners:

- i) India-UK FTA,

- ii) India-EU FTA,
- iii) India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA),
- iv) India-Peru Trade Agreement, covering goods, services and investment,
- v) India-Sri Lanka Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement (ETCA)
- vi) India-Oman FTA.

Moreover, India has also initiated review of its existing FTAs, namely, (i) India-South Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and (ii) ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).

Negotiations for FTAs are entered into with trading partner countries primarily with the aim to increase the bilateral trade through enlarging the scope of market access and the trade complementarities thereof.
