

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2430

ANSWERED ON 13/02/2026

ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC INTERESTS OF INDIA

2430. MS. S JOTHIMANI

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

(a) the details and potential diplomatic or strategic implications of the recent or proposed tariffs, trade restrictions or import duties imposed by the United States on Indian goods;

(b) the diplomatic steps and bilateral engagements undertaken by the Government of India, including discussions in international forums, to address or mitigate these measures; and

(c) the strategy adopted by the Government to protect India's economic and strategic interests?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to c) On 2nd February 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump held a telephone conversation to discuss bilateral and other international issues. Subsequent to this call, President Trump announced that the tariffs applicable to India stood reduced to 18%.

During the period leading up to this announcement, Government remained in close consultation with Indian exporters and industry and took action to provide targeted support to them. Efforts were also made to improve the utilization of existing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and to advance negotiations on new trade agreements. Intense discussions also continued with the US side for the conclusion of a balanced and mutually beneficial trade deal.

Government continues to prioritize resilience of supply chains and diversification of sources as key elements of any strategy to preserve the country's economic security. In addition, it also continues to deepen and broaden its existing strategic partnerships with a broad range of countries on the global stage.
