

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Finance**

01-June-2016 16:24 IST

Cabinet approves signing and ratification of Agreement between India and Qatar on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing and ratifying of an Agreement between India and Qatar on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.

The Agreement aims to entering into a bilateral Agreement on co-operation Customs matters between India and Qatar.

The Agreement will help in the availability of relevant information for the prevention and investigation of Customs offences. The Agreement is also expected to facilitate trade and ensure efficient clearance of goods traded between the countries.

Background:

Qatar is an important trading partner of India. Trade between the two countries has been expanding over the years. In view of the steady growth in bilateral trade, it was felt imperative to provide a legal framework for sharing of information and intelligence between the Customs authorities of the two countries to help in proper application of Customs laws, prevention and investigation of Customs offences and to facilitate legitimate trade. A draft text of the Agreement has been finalized after mutual discussions. It takes care of Indian Customs' concerns and requirements, particularly in the area of exchange of information on correctness of the Customs value declared, the authenticity of certificates of origin of goods and the description of the goods traded between the two countries.

AKT/VBA/NT