

# An Analysis Of India's Export Basket To Bangladesh

**ARIFA TABASSUM**

Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Gauhati University. Guwahati, Assam, India.

---

## **ABSTRACT**

Bangladesh is one of the most important export markets for India. For the past several decades it has been the largest export market for India in the SAARC region. This study is an analysis of the commodity composition of India's exports to Bangladesh. The commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh is observed from 1988 to 2018. The commodity composition of exports are depicted using pie charts to show the top exported commodities in terms of percentage share of total exports of respective years using 2 digit classification of HS code consisting of 99 items or chapters. The most exported items of the above selected years are discussed in details in HS 4 digit classification. The analysis of the commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh reveals that 'Cotton' is one of the most important export items to Bangladesh. The top fifteen items in terms of percentage share constitutes the majority of the exported items.

**Keywords:** India, Bangladesh, Export, Composition.

---

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Exports are very important in the modern economies. It offers the wide opportunity of markets for the goods produced by the firms of a particular country. Exports provide a platform to capture the overseas market. India and Bangladesh are important trading members in the South Asian region. Trade between both the countries has been increasing over time. Bangladesh is one of the most important export markets for India. For the past several decades it has been the largest export market for India in the SAARC region. In the year 2018, India's export to Bangladesh was US\$ 9214.40 million with an annual growth of 25.10% over 2017. In the same year India's export to Bangladesh as percentage share of world exports was 2.73% (Bangladesh High Commission, 2015).

Around 50 percent of bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh takes place through land ports and lack of enough trade facilitation is the most important non – tariff barrier for the operators on both sides. Bilateral trade between both the nations will increase if transit facilities are provided to India, Nepal and Bhutan via Bangladesh (De and Ghosh 2008; Basher 2013; Rahman, 2019). To strengthen close cooperation between both the nations several initiatives have been taken such as trans-shipment of Indian goods through Bangladesh's Ashuganj port to the ports of Northeast India, expansion of rail links within Northeast India and between India and Bangladesh, the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement among others; provide duty free treatment to Bangladeshi products; development of Indian economic zones in Bangladesh, etc. One of the goals of Indian government is to connect Northeast India with mainland India through Bangladesh. India's improved connectivity

with Bangladesh and Myanmar is important for the success of India's Look East Policy (Anand, 2016; Kathuria, 2017).

This paper studies the commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh.

## **2. DATA AND METHODOLOGY**

The data is collected from United Nations International Trade Statistics Database (UNCOMTRADE)<sup>1</sup>. Harmonised System<sup>2</sup> (HS) 92 of classification has been selected to study the commodity composition. This classification is selected for the study based upon the data availability for a comprehensive study of the commodity composition between both the countries from the year 1988 to 2018. The HS classification is useful in studying the commodity composition in details. GDP (constant 2010 US\$) and GDP (current US\$) data is collected from the World Bank Database. The commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh is observed from 1988 to 2018.

The data used to study the commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh are adjusted for inflation by converting the nominal values into real values. The commodity composition of exports are depicted using pie charts to show the top exported commodities in terms of percentage share of total exports of respective years using 2 digit classification of HS code consisting of 99 items or chapters. The years are selected with a gap of five years for the analysis of export (1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018). The most exported items of the above selected years are discussed in details in HS 4 digit classification.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1. COMMODITY COMPOSITION OF INDIA'S EXPORT TO BANGLADESH**

Figures 1 to 7 relates to the Commodity Composition of India's exports to Bangladesh over the period of 1988 to 2018. The years have been chosen with a gap of 5 years. The top 15 commodities in terms of percentage share out of total exports to Bangladesh have been ranked to get a clear picture of the major commodities that constitute India's export to Bangladesh.

---

<sup>1</sup> UNCOMTRADE records import, cif (cost, insurance and freight) and the exports are recorded fob (free on board). It provides annual international trade statistics data detailed by commodities or service categories and partner countries.

<sup>2</sup> The HS of trade classification is an international nomenclature for classification of goods which was introduced in the year 1988 and is adopted by most of the countries. It is a six digit coding system in the international level. It consists of 99 chapters which are grouped into 21 sections. The classification has undergone changes termed as revisions and are entered in the years 1996, 2002, 2007, 2012 and 2017.

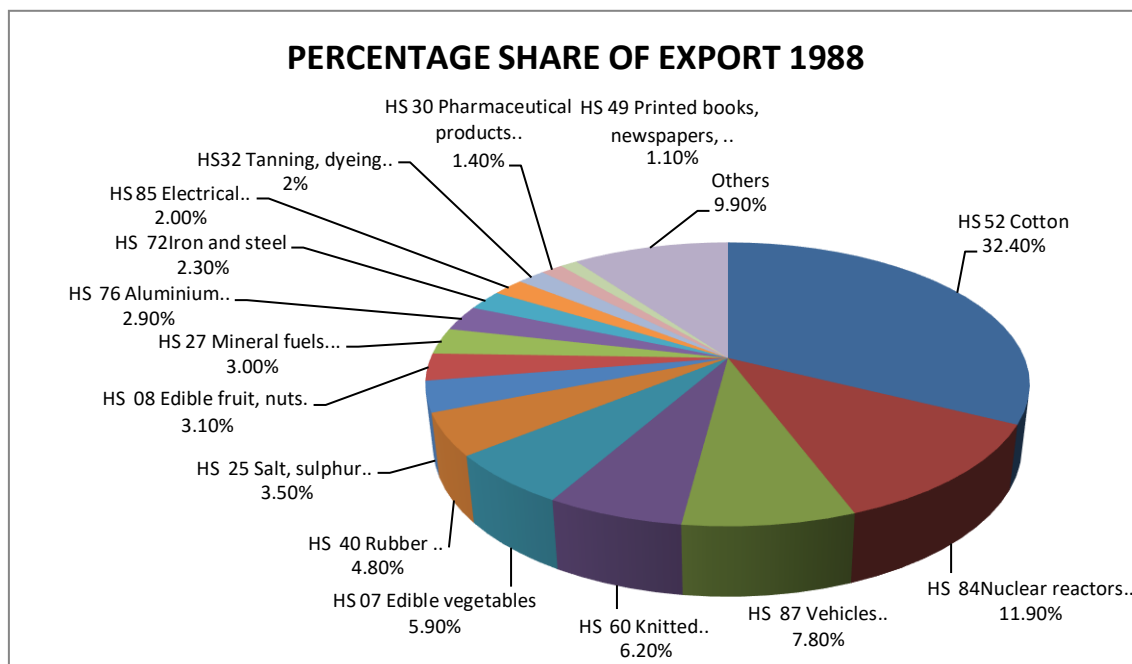


Figure 1 Commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh (1988)

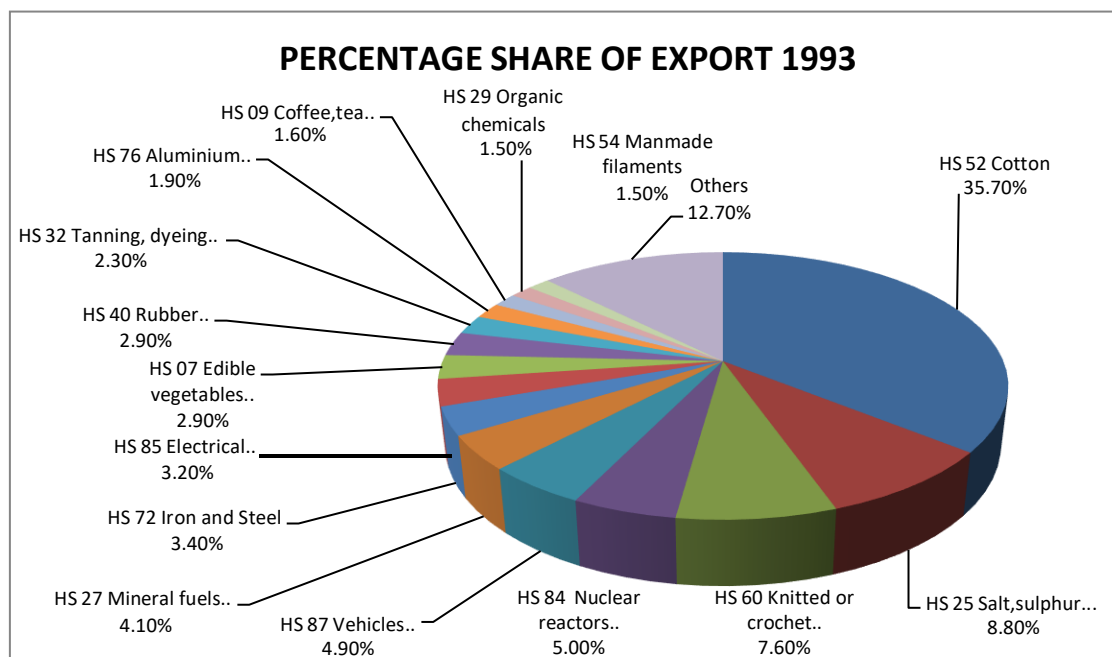


Figure 2 Commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh (1993)

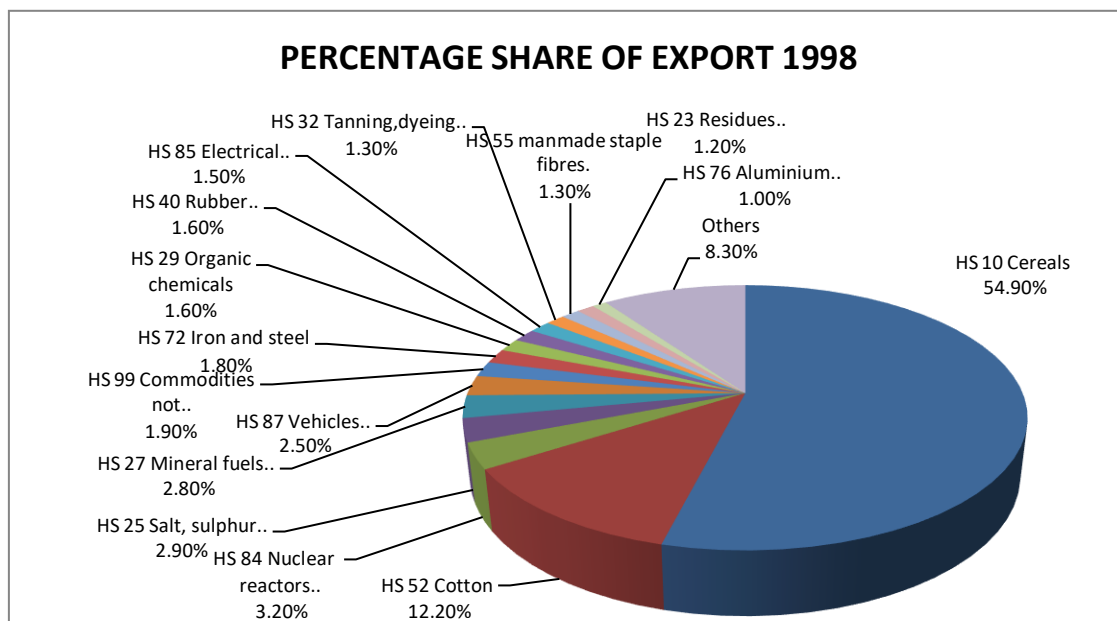


Figure 3 Commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh (1998)

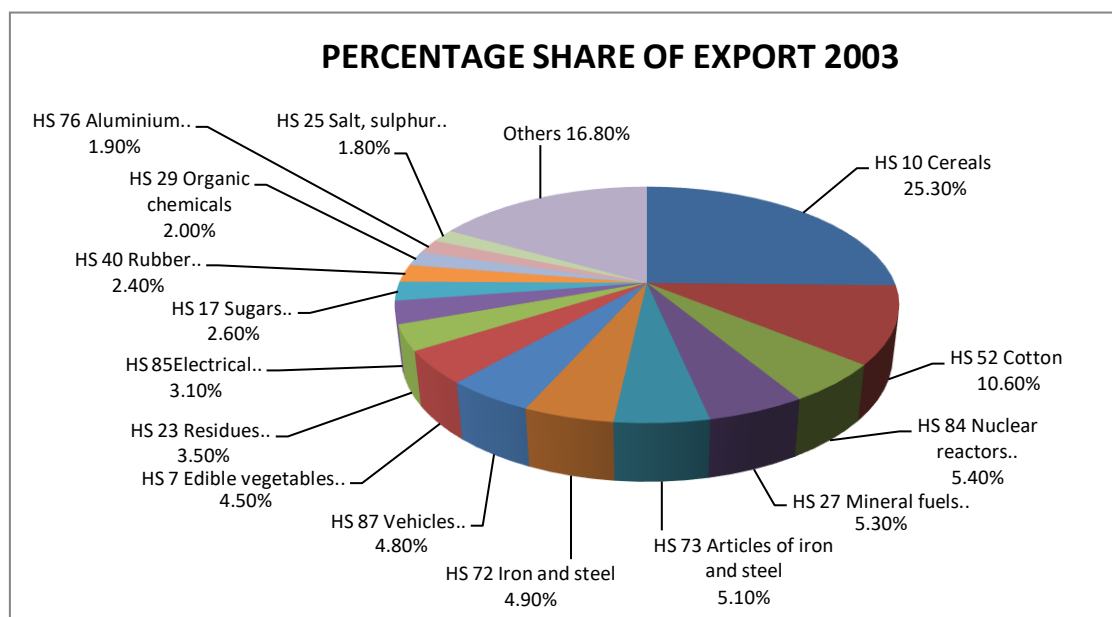


Figure 4 Commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh (2003)

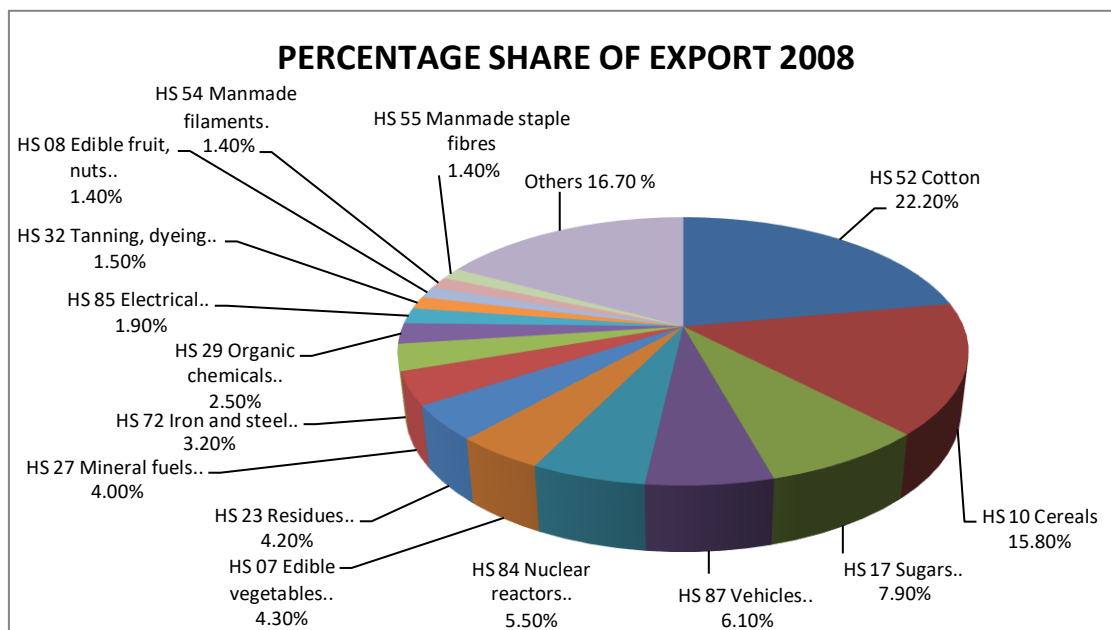


Figure 5 Commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh (2008)

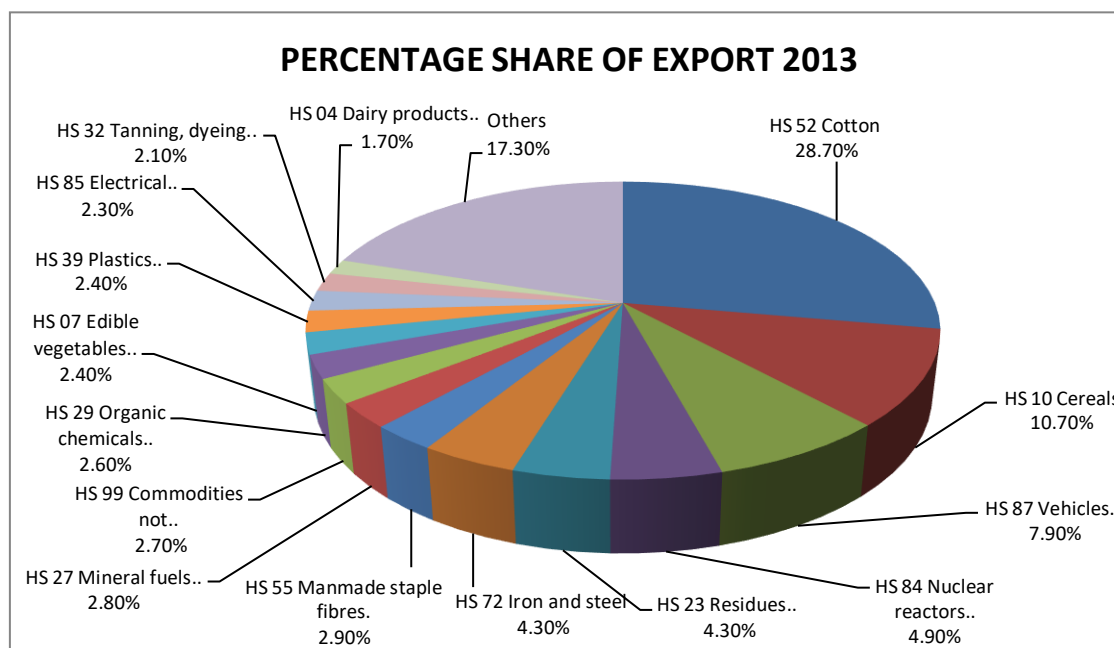


Figure 6 Commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh (2013)

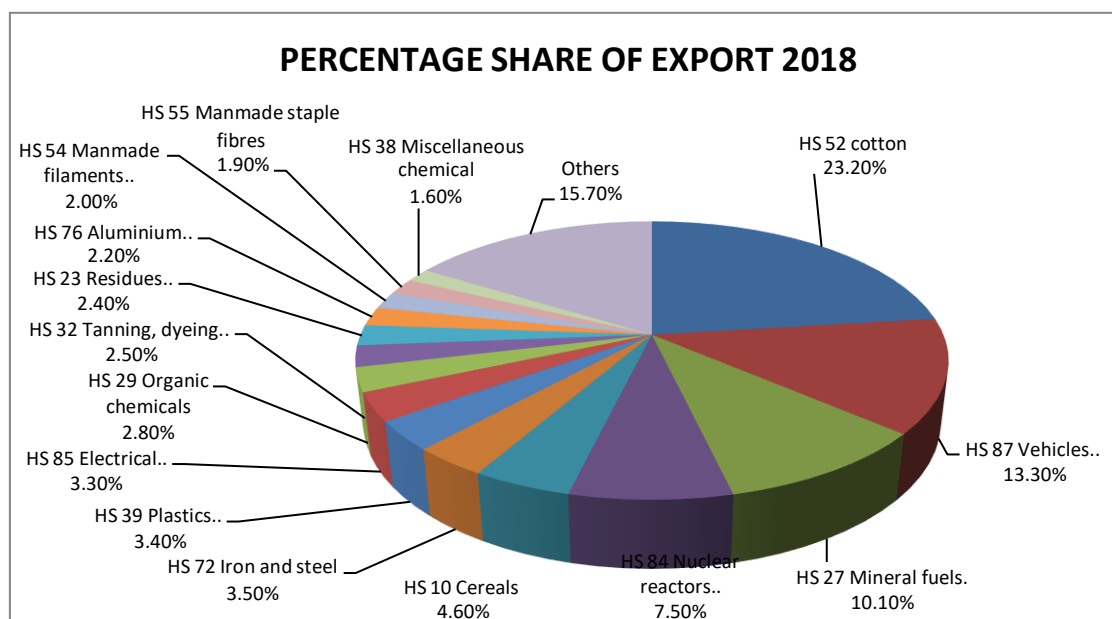


Figure 7 Commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh (2018)

A few notable commodities and their positions along with percentage shares have been discussed briefly in the following paragraphs.

It is evident from the figures that Cotton (HS Code 52) has perpetually topped the list of India's commodity exports to Bangladesh. In the year 1988, the percentage share of Cotton was 32.4% which rose to 35.7% in 1993. The year 1998 saw Cotton slump to rank 2 with just 12.2%, losing its top position to Cereals (HS Code 10), a new entrant to the top 15 list, which achieved a percentage share of 54.9%. In 2003 Cotton's percentage share dipped further to 10.6% and stayed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> rank with Cereals once again topping the list with 25.3%. 2008 saw Cotton regain its top position from Cereals and held it till 2018. It had a percentage share of 22.2% in 2008, followed by 28.7% and 23.2% in 2013 and 2018 respectively. Cereals on the other hand ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> both in 2008 and 2013 but fell drastically to 5<sup>th</sup> rank in 2018. Percentage share of Cereals in 2008 was 15.8%, followed by 10.7% in the year 2013. In 2018, the percentage share of Cereals stood at a meager 4.6%.

Another notable entrant in the top 15 list of India's commodity exports to Bangladesh is Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc (HS Code 84). Its percentage share in 1988 stood at 11.9%, making it the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked item of that year. Since then its percentage share has declined slightly, but yet it has perpetually achieved high single digit percentage shares, with an exception in 1998 when it was just 3.2%.

The fall and re rise of Vehicles other than railway, tramway (HS Code 87) is another notable reflection of the above figures. It was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1988 with a percentage share of 7.8%. Over the years 1993, 1998 and 2003 it slipped to 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively with its percentage share being 4.9%, 2.5% and 4.8% respectively. But since then, it has been on a rising trend achieving 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ranks respectively in the years 2008, 2013 and 2018. In 2008, its percentage share rose to 6.1% followed by 7.9% in 2013. In 2018 its percentage share sharply rose to 13.3%.

Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc (HS Code 27) is another export item which has remained in the top 15 list of India's export commodities to Bangladesh throughout. From 1988 to the year 2003

it showed a rising trend in ranking, starting with 9<sup>th</sup> in 1988 and rising to 4<sup>th</sup> in 2003. However it dipped to 8<sup>th</sup> position in 2008 and remained there in 2013 before achieving its all time high rank of 3 in 2018. 2018 is also the first time that its percentage share touched double digits with 10.1% of India's total exports to Bangladesh.

Another commodity of significance in India's exports to Bangladesh is Iron and steel (HS Code 72). It first entered the top 15 list in the year 1993 with a ranking of 7 and held the position in 1998, although its percentage share decreased from 3.4% to 1.8%. It then rose to 6<sup>th</sup> position in 2003. The year 2003 also saw Articles of iron or steel (HS Code 73) enter the top 15 list for the first time with a rank of 5. Interestingly, that year Articles of iron or steel (HS Code 73) and Iron and steel (HS Code 72) combined made up 10% of India's total exports to Bangladesh. Iron and steel (HS Code 72) then dipped to 9<sup>th</sup> position in 2008 before reaching its peak ranking of 5<sup>th</sup> in 2013 and then featured in the 6<sup>th</sup> position in 2018.

A glance at the pie charts reflect that the above discussed commodities feature prominently in India's top 15 list of export commodities to Bangladesh. Besides these though, a few other commodities has also been notable entrants in this list over the years. Some examples being Knitted or crocheted fabric (HS Code 60); Salt, sulphur, earth, stone, plaster, lime and cement (HS Code 25); Rubber and articles thereof (HS Code 40); Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers (HS Code 7); Electrical, electronic equipment (HS Code 85); Organic chemicals (HS Code 29); Residues, wastes of food industry, animal fodder (HS Code 23) and Plastics and articles thereof (HS Code 39). HS code 17 (Sugar) entered the top fifteen list in the year 2003 with 2.60% and its share increased in 2008 and the main item exported under it was Solid cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose (HS code 1701) contributing to around 99.86% of the total amount of US\$ 295.39 million.

During 2006-07 sugar production attained a record level in India amounting to 356019 thousand tons with an annual growth rate of 26.38% compared to the previous year. In the following year, that is, 2007-08 the sugar production amounted to 348402 thousand tons. The production increased due to favorable weather condition (Nandhini and Padmavathy, 2017). Bangladesh is a sugar deficit country and is one of the largest importers of sugar (Balasaheb, 2013).

Figure 8 shows the percentage share of India's total exports to Bangladesh that is accounted for by the top 15 products of each year under consideration, i.e. 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018. As can be seen from the figure, in the year 1988, the top 15 commodities together made up 90.10% of India's total exports to Bangladesh while the rest of the commodities up to HS Code 99 only contributed 09.90%. In the following year of consideration, i.e. 1993, the combined share of the top 15 commodities stood at 87.30%, which rose to 91.70% in 1998.

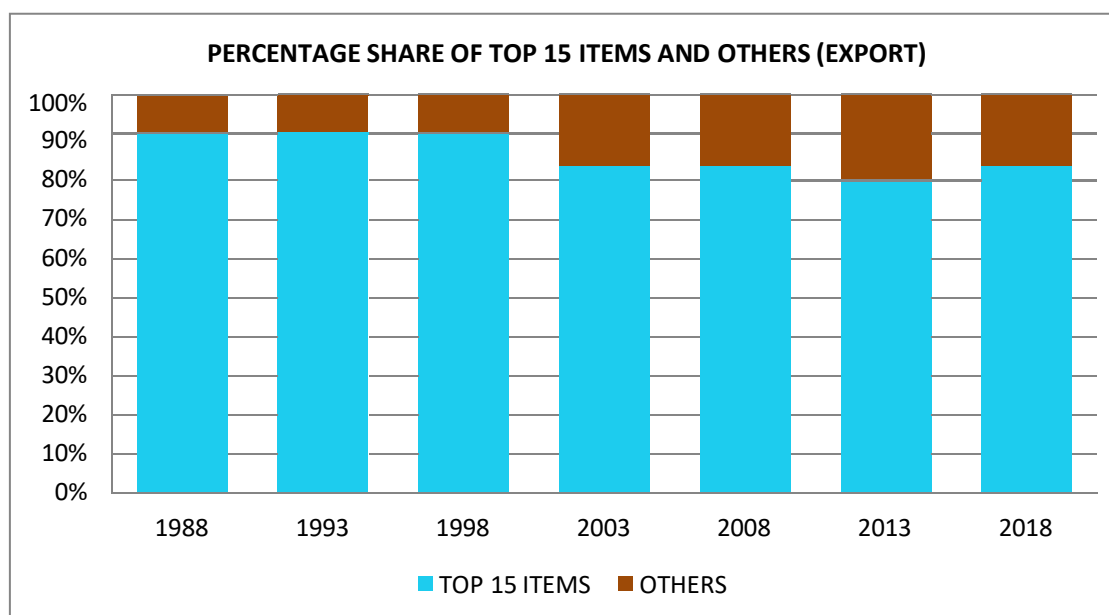


Figure 8 Percentage share of India's export to Bangladesh (Top 15 items and others)

The years 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018 saw the cumulative percentage shares of the top 15 commodities at 83.20%, 83.30%, 82.70 % and 84.30% respectively. Thus it is clear that it is always the top 15 ranked commodities in India's exports to Bangladesh with a lion's share of the total exports to their name.

Some of the commodities which are common in India's export basket to Bangladesh over the years are discussed in the following sections:

### 3.1.1. COTTON (HS CODE 52)

It is observed from the 4 digit classification of the items under cotton (HS code 52) that the items which contribute to top share are: Cotton, not carded or combed (HS code 5201); Cotton waste, including yarn waste and garnetted stoc (HS code 5202); Cotton yarn not sewing thread >85% cotton, not retail (HS code 5205); Cotton yarn (except sewing thread) retail (HS code 5207); Woven cotton fabric, >85% cotton, < 200g/m2 (HS code 5208) and Woven cotton nes, >85% cotton, >200g/m2 (HS code 5209).

Cotton is one of India's top exported products to Bangladesh. 4 digit detailed classification of the items shows that in the year 1988 HS code 5205 contributed to 33.33%, HS code 5208 contributed 31.29% and HS code 5209 contributed to 12.96% of the sum total of HS 52 which amounted to US\$ 82.15 million. In the year 1993 HS code 5205 contributed 58.20%, HS code 5208 contributed to 14.76% and HS code 5207 contributed to 10.89% of the sum total of HS 52 which amounted to US\$ 290.13 million. In the year 1998 HS code 5205 contributed to around 47.29%, HS code 5209 contributed 25.54% and HS code 5208 contributed to 17.81% of the total of HS code 52 amounting to US\$ 203.93 million. In the year 2003, out of the total HS code 52 amounting to US\$ 272.38 million, the percentage contribution of top items within it were HS codes 5205, 5209 and 5207 contributing to 31.23%, 29.47% and 14.62% respectively. Therefore the same items were exported in the top items among HS code 52. But from the year 2008 HS code 5201 entered the top three lists. In 2008 the percentage contribution of the top three items were 38.16%, 37.11% and 12.32% by HS codes 5205, 5201 and



5209 respectively out of the total amount US\$ 830.07 million. In the year 2013 and 2018 the top three items were HS codes 5202, 5205 and 5209 amounting to 44.19%, 32.93% and 14.80% in 2013 and 39.12%, 37.41% and 11.38% in 2018 respectively. The total amount of HS code 52 amounted to US\$ 1774.14 million in 2013 which increased to US\$ 2111.33 million in 2018.

During 2013 India was the major supplier of raw cotton to Bangladesh besides Uzbekistan, major reason behind this being the competitive pricing and short delivery time. With around 75 percent of the market share, India continued to remain the principal supplier of yarn to Bangladesh in the year 2013. Bangladesh imported yarn from India due to increased demand from the export oriented RMG sector and their domestic textile market (Hussain, 2013). It is one of the biggest importers of Indian cotton. In the year 2017-18 it emerged as the top importer of Indian cotton overtaking China. The cotton production in Bangladesh is not considered sufficient and is less than 8 lakhs bales a season. It is the world's largest cotton importer and its spinning mills largely depend on imported cotton. During the season October- March in the year 2017-2018, India had sold around 55 lakhs bales of cotton of which 17 lakhs bales were shipped to Bangladesh (Kasabe, 2018).

### **3.1.2. CEREALS (HS CODE 10)**

The items under Cereals (HS code 10) which remained in the top list in terms of percentage contribution are: Wheat and meslin (HS code 1001); Maize (corn) (HS code 1005) and Rice (HS code 1006).

Cereals entered the top 15 list in terms of percentage share from the year 1998. 4 digit detailed classification of the items shows that in the year 1998 HS code 1006 contributed to 99.94% and HS code 1005 contributed to 0.04% of the total of HS code 10 amounting to US\$ 914.16 million. In the year 2003 the percentage share of HS code 1006 decreased to 52.71 %, HS code 1001 contributed to 42.71% and HS code 1005 contributed to 4.55% of the total of HS code 10 which amounted to US\$ 652.94 million. Again the share of HS code 1006 increased to 97.05 % in the year 2008 and HS code 1005 contributed to 2.54 % out of total of US\$ 593.21 million. In the year 2013 and 2018, HS codes 1001, 1005 and 1006 remained in the top three items exported. In 2013 HS code 1001 contributed to 64.06%, 1005 contributed to 20.67% and HS code 1006 contributed to 15.24% of total HS code 10 amounting to US\$ 6621.38 million. And finally in the year 2018 HS code 1006 contributed to 83.21 % and HS code 1005 contributed 15.67 % of the total which amounted to US\$ 420 million.

Following the 1998 floods in Bangladesh its import of rice and wheat from India increased to maintain the food security at the national level in Bangladesh (Ninno et al, 2001).

### **3.1.3. NUCLEAR REACTORS, BOILERS, MACHINERY, ETC (HS CODE 84)**

The items of Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc (HS Code 84) which contributes highly in India's exports to Bangladesh are: Steam/vapour generating boiler (except central heating) (HS code 8402); Turbo-jets, turbo-propellers/other gas turbine engine (HS code 8411); Machines to clean, sort, mill seed, grain, dry legume (HS code 8437); Industrial food and drink preparation machinery nes (HS code 8438); Machines for processing textile fibres (HS code 8445); Machines for knitting, lace, embroidery, tufting, etc (HS code 8447); Auxiliary machinery and parts for textile machinery (HS code 8448); Machinery nes, to clean, iron, impregnate textiles (HS code 8451); Metal-rolling mills and rolls thereof (HS code 8455) and Machines nes having individual functions (HS code 8479).

In the year 1988 out of total amount of HS code 84 amounting to US\$ 30.25 million, the percentage share of HS code 8448 was 15.72%, HS code 8445 was 12.98% and HS code 8479 was 12.15 %. In the year 1993 out of total amount of US\$ 40.68 million, HS code 8479 contributed to 11.99%, HS code 8447 contributed to 10.07% and HS code 8451 contributed to 8.67%. In the year 1998 out of the total amount of US\$ 53.33 million, HS code 8455 contributed to 17.12%, HS code 8438 contributed to 10.61% and HS code 8479 contributed to 7.66%. In the year 2003 out of the total amount of US\$ 139.85 million, HS code 8455 contributed to 23.32%, HS code 8479 contributed to 9.82% and HS code 8445 contributed to 5.50%. In the year 2008 out of the total amount of US\$ 207.18 million, HS code 8411 contributed to 34.08%, HS code 8479 contributed to 7.64% and HS code 8455 contributed to 7.38%. In the year 2013 out of the total amount of US\$ 302.25 million, HS code 8479 contributed 10.28%, HS code 8445 contributed 7.90% and HS code 8437 contributed 5.59%. In 2018 out of the total amount of US\$ 679.61 million, HS code 8402 contributed 13.32%, HS code 8445 contributed 8.60% and HS code 8479 contributed 7.35%.

#### **3.1.4. VEHICLES OTHER THAN RAILWAY, TRAMWAY (HS CODE 87)**

In the export of Vehicles other than railway, tramway (HS Code 87), the major contribution of items within it are: Public-transport type passenger motor vehicles (HS code 8702); Motor vehicles for transport of persons (except buses) (HS code 8703); Motor vehicles for the transport of goods (HS code 8704); Motor vehicle chassis fitted with engine (HS code 8706); Motorcycles, bicycles etc with auxiliary motor (HS code 8711) and Parts and accessories of bicycles, motorcycles, etc (HS code 8714).

In the year 1988 out of the total of HS code 87 amounting to US\$ 19.86 million, HS code 8706 contributed to 40.48%, HS code 8714 contributed to 24.26% and HS code 8704 contributed to 14.38%. In the year 1993 the percentage share of HS code 8706 was 33.51%, HS code 8711 was 23.69% and HS code 8714 was 21.13% out of the total amount of US\$ 39.53 million under HS code 87. In the year 1998 out of the total amount of US\$ 42.36 million of HS code 87, HS code 8706 contributed to 39.42%, HS code 8711 contributed to 17.09% and HS code 8702 contributed to around 9.29%. In the year 2003 out of the total amount of US\$ 123.94 million, HS code 8711 contributed to 27.05 %, HS code 8703 contributed to 24.95 %, HS code 8706 contributed to 14.67%. In the year 2008 out of the total of US\$ 228.64 million, HS code 8711 contributed to 25.7%, HS code 8703 contributed to 16.46% and HS code 8706 contributed to 14.86%. In the year 2013 out of the total amount of US\$ 490.15 million of HS code 87, HS code 8704 contributed to 24.55%, HS code 8711 contributed to 23.38% and HS code 8703 contributed to around 15.30%. In the year 2018 out of the total amount of US\$ 1207.57 million, HS code 8704 contributed to 27.99%, HS code 8711 contributed to around 24.46% and 8706 contributed to around 13.75%.

#### **3.1.5. MINERAL FUELS, OILS, DISTILLATION PRODUCTS, ETC (HS CODE 27)**

Majority of the items exported under Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc (HS Code 27) consists of Coal, briquettes, ovoids etc, made from coal (HS code 2701); Retort carbon, coke or semi-coke of coal, lignite, pea (HS code 2704); Coal gas, water gas, etc. (not gaseous hydrocarbons) (HS code 2705); Oils petroleum, bituminous, distillates, except crude (HS code 2710) and Electrical energy (HS code 2716).

In the year 1988 out of the total amount of US\$ 7.49 million of HS code 27, HS code 2701 contributed to around 99.76% and the rest was contributed by HS code 2705 contributing to 0.23%. In the year 1993 out of the total amount of US\$ 32.89 million, HS code 2701 contributed to 99.09% and HS code

2704 contributed to 0.42%. In the year 1998 out of the total amount of US\$ 46.76 million, HS code 2701 contributed to 99.49%. In the year 2003 out of the total amount of US\$ 135.81 million, HS code 2701 contributed 56.26% and HS code 2710 contributed 42.88%. In the year 2008 out of the total amount of US\$ 148.91 million, HS code 2710 contributed 60% and HS code 2701 contributed around 38.42%. In the year 2013 out of the total amount of US\$ 172.87 million, HS code 2701 contributed 65.67% and HS code 2710 contributed 32.78%. And finally in the year 2018 out of the total of US\$ 915.63 million, HS code 2710 contributed 74.04% and HS code 2716 contributed 21.59%.

### **3.1.6. IRON AND STEEL (HS CODE 72)**

The major items that are exported under Iron and steel (HS Code 72) are Pig iron and spiegeleisen in primary forms (HS code 7201); Ferro-alloys (HS code 7202); Ferrous products from reduction of iron ore, pure iron (HS code 7203); Semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel (HS code 7207); Hot-rolled products, iron/steel, width>600mm, not clad (HS code 7208); Flat-rolled iron/steel, >600mm, not clad, plated, etc (HS code 7209); Flat-rolled iron/steel, >600mm, clad, plated or coated (HS code 7210); Flat-rolled iron/steel, <600mm, not clad, plated, etc (HS code 7211); Flat-rolled alloy steel nes, width >600mm (HS code 7225) and Flat-rolled alloy steel nes, <600mm wide (HS code 7226).

In the year 1993 out of the total amount of US\$ 27.89 million of HS code 72, HS code 7207 contributed 29.72%, HS code 7209 contributed 21.67% and HS code 7201 contributed around 9.71%. In the year 1998 out of the total amount of US\$ 29.95 million, HS codes 7208, 7210 and 7225 contributed to 35.64%, 17.01% and 12.28% respectively. In the year 2003 out of the total amount of US\$ 125.67 million, HS codes 7208, 7226 and 7211 contributed to 50.98%, 9.08% and 7.91 % respectively. In the year 2008 out of the total amount of US\$ 1173.07 million, HS codes 7207, 7211 and 7208 contributed to 44.35%, 13.63% and 11.41% respectively. In the year 2013 out of the total amount of US\$ 260.92 million, HS codes 7207, 7208 and 7203 contributed to 47.10%, 22.42% and 9.94% respectively. In the year 2018 out of the total amount of US\$ 312.55 million, HS codes 7203, 7202 and 7201 contributed 42.15%, 16.23% and 13.85% respectively.

### **3.1.7. EDIBLE VEGETABLES AND CERTAIN ROOTS AND TUBERS (HS CODE 07)**

The most exported items under HS code 07 are: Onions, shallots, garlic, leeks, etc. fresh or chilled (HS code 703) and Vegetables, leguminous dried, shelled (HS code 713).

In the year 1988 out of the total amount of US\$ 14.96 million of HS code 07, HS code 703 contributed 99.93%. In the year 1993 HS code 703 contributed 96.80% of the total amount of US\$ 23.17 million. In the year 2003 out of the total amount of US\$ 115.78 million, HS code 703 contributed 58.62% and HS code 713 contributed to 38.51%. In the year 2008 HS code 703 contributed around 97.06%.

### **3.1.8. ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (HS CODE 85)**

The major export items under HS code 85 are: Electric transformers, static converters and rectifier (HS code 8504); Television receivers, video monitors, projectors (HS code 8528); Parts for radio, tv transmission, receive equipment (HS code 8529); Electrical apparatus for voltage over 1 kV (HS code 8535); Electrical power, etc, control and distribution board (HS code 8537) and Insulated wire and cable, optical fibre cable (HS code 8544).

In the year 1993 out of the total amount of US\$ 25.50 million of HS code 85, HS codes 8504, 8529 and 8528 contributed to 35.24%, 20.19 % and 8.89% respectively. In the year 1998 out of the total amount of US\$ 24.02 million, HS codes 8504, 8528 and 8535 contributed 36.46%, 20.97% and 6.84%

respectively. In the year 2003 out of the total of US\$ 80.64 million, HS codes 8528 and 8504 contributed to 31.51% and 30.11% respectively. In the year 2018 out of the total of US\$ 303.57 million, HS codes 8504, 8544 and 8537 contributed 23.63%, 14.10% and 12.21% respectively.

### **3.1.9. ORGANIC CHEMICALS (HS CODE 29)**

The major items which are exported under HS code 29 are Halogenated derivatives of hydrocarbons (HS code 2903); Saturated acyclic monocarboxylic acids, derivatives (HS code 2915); Heterocyclics, nitrogen hetero atom only, nucleic acid (HS code 2933); Sulphonamides (HS code 2935); Hormones, derivatives, steroids used as hormones (HS code 2937) and Veg alkaloids, their salts, ethers, esters and derivs (HS code 2939).

In the year 1998 out of the total amount of US\$ 9.06 million, HS code 2935, HS code 2933 and HS code 2903 contributed 32.36%, 21.29% and 11.34% respectively. In the year 2008 out of the total amount of US\$ 34.76 million, HS code 2933, HS code 2915 and HS code 2939 contributed to 28.39%, 20.28% and 5.32% respectively. In the year 2013 out of the total amount of US\$ 91.53 million, HS code 2933, HS code 2915 and HS code 2937 contributed 34.37%, 13.11 % and 5.67% respectively. In the year 2018 out of the total amount of US\$ 155.18 million, HS code 2933, HS code 2915 and HS code 2922 contributed 43.13%, 10.87% and 6.15% respectively.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

The analysis of the commodity composition of India's export to Bangladesh reveals that 'Cotton' is one of the most important export items to Bangladesh. The top fifteen items in terms of percentage share constitutes the majority of the exported items. Though the items in the top fifteen keep changing yet there is a definite pattern that can be observed and there are certain common commodities which India has been exporting throughout the years besides other commodities.

## **5. REFERENCES**

- Anand, B. V. (2016). Connectivity at the core of India's Act East policy. <https://www.vifindia.org/article/2016/september/14/connectivity-at-the-core-of-india-s-act-east-policy>
- Balasaheb, D, T., (2013). India's Sugar Trade: A fresh look. Indira Gandhi National Institute of Development Research, Mumbai. <http://www.igidr.ac.in/pdf/publication/WP-2013-024.pdf>
- Bangladesh High Commission (2015). Bangladesh-India trade 2015. New Delhi ,India.
- Basher, A. (2013). Indo-Bangla trade: Composition, trends and way forward. Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Dhaka. [http://ris.org.in/images/RIS\\_images/pdf/South%20Asia%20meeting%20-3%20may%2020013%20PPT/Abdul%20Basher\\_paper.pdf](http://ris.org.in/images/RIS_images/pdf/South%20Asia%20meeting%20-3%20may%2020013%20PPT/Abdul%20Basher_paper.pdf)
- De, P., & Ghosh, B. (2008). Reassessing transaction costs of trade at the India-Bangladesh border. Economic and Political Weekly. 43( 29), 69, 71-79.
- Kasabe, N. (2018). Bangladesh emerges largest importer of Indian cotton. <https://www.financialexpress.com/market/commodities/bangladesh-emerges-largest-importer-of-indian-cotton/1143136/>

- Kathuria, S. (2017, September 28). Bangladesh corridor vital to India's 'Act East' policy.  
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/bangladesh-corridor-vital-india-s-act-east-policy>
- Nandhini, T. S. K. D., and Padmavathy, V., (2017). A study on Sugarcane production in India. International Journal of Advanced Research in Botany(IJARB). 3(2), 13-17.
- Ninno, C., Dorosh, P.A., Smith, L. C., & Roy. D.K. 2001. The 1998 floods in Bangladesh.  
<https://www.alnap.org/system/files/content/resource/files/main/rr122.pdf>
- Rahman, M.(2019, September 17). Making the most of Bangladesh-India trade.  
<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2019/09/17/making-the-most-of-bangladesh-india-trade/>