

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:387  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000  
TRADE ROUND AT WTO .  
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**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India has proposed convening another ministerial meeting to consider a new trade round of WTO;
- (b) if so, whether the United States has opposed such proposal;
- (c) whether India is taking initiatives to bring other developing countries in her stride to counter the pressure of the developed countries in the trade talks at WTO; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (b) Though india is disappointed with the failure of talks at the seattle ministerial conference of the world trade organization (wto), it is her stand that another ministerial meeting should be convened only after arriving at a broad consensus on major issues by the membership of wto, including removal of the contentious non-trade related issues, and the taking on board the concerns of the developing countries regarding the implementation of the existing wto agreements. the chairperson of the third ministerial conference of the wto, who is also the united states trade representative (ustr), had entrusted director general, wto with the task of building consensus amongst the wto membership to prepare the way for resumption of the suspended ministerial conference. ....2/-

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(c) to (d) It continues to be india`s strategy to build up solidarity with the like-minded developing countries so as to effectively protect her core interests besides projecting the developing country perspective in wto negotiations. the major initiative in this regard after the seattle talks has been during the unctad-x conference in bangkok (12-19 february 2000) when the group of 77 comprising developing countries, of which india is a member, worked to obtain a favourable recommendation in the plan of action of unctad for commitment to a multilateral trading system which is more consistent with overall development objectives and, in the context of developing countries supports ways and means to ensure that trade makes a more decisive contribution to alleviating poverty.