

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:189
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
SETTLEMENT OF WTO RULES OF ORIGIN
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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- (a) whether the Government seek early settlement of WTO `rules of origin`;
- (b) if so, the efforts made by the Government for quick negotiations of the `rules of origin`;
- (c) whether the criteria adopted for determining origin was designed to be helpful to trade interests of any particular country; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) IN RESPECT OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 189 FOR ANS ON 3RD AUGUST, 2001, REGARDING SETTLEMENT OF WTO RULES OF ORIGIN:

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) : India is actively participating in the on-going negotiations in WTO for harmonisation of the rules of origin. The WTO Agreement on Rules Of Origin has laid down the objectives and principles and the broad criteria that will govern the harmonisation of the rules of origin including that they should be objective, understandable and predictable and should be administered in a consistent, uniform, impartial and reasonable manner.

In the discussions held so far in the negotiations, it has been possible to arrive at a consensus on a harmonisation of certain origin rules. There are, however, a number of issues where a consensus is still to emerge.

Along with some like-minded developing countries, India had insisted, as part of the proposals relating to implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements, that the work relating to harmonisation of rules of origin should be quickly concluded. This has led to decision by the General Council of WTO in its Special Session on Implementation held in December 2000 to complete the remaining work of harmonization of rules of origin by the Fourth Ministerial Conference in November 2001 or by the end of 2001 at the latest.