

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1600
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
G - 24 MEETING
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Group of 24 developing countries has demanded the removal of trade barriers imposed by the advanced nations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India has made a number of suggestions during the meeting of G-24; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Inter-Governmental Group of 24 on International Monetary Affairs (G-24) noted in their meeting held on April 28, 2001, that barriers to developing country exports in industrialized markets continued to seriously disadvantage developing countries. Various protectionist mechanisms in developed countries, viz., anti-dumping and countervailing duties as well as subsidies and slow implementation of trade liberalisation agreements imposed prohibitive costs on developing countries and inhibited their exports. The efforts of developing countries to use multilateral systems effectively to promote trade and development by increasing their access to global markets needed to be strengthened and supplemented. The Meeting urged the World Bank to support these efforts.

(c)&(d) During the G-24 Meeting India made several interventions, particularly regarding

- (i) present level of oil prices constituting a major shock in terms-of-trade for oil importing developing countries with adverse implications for balance of payments, thus requiring urgent measures for alleviating their difficulties;
- (ii) commending the efforts by oil producing countries for oil market stabilisation while at the same time recognizing the fact that serious problems were faced by oil importing developing countries on account of high oil prices; and
- (iii) the need for better coordination among major industrial countries as well as better surveillance of their policies.