

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:46
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
STRUGGLE BY FARMERS ORGANISATION
BHUMA NAGI REDDY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain organizations of farmers have decided to launch struggle seeking solution to the problems faced by the farming community;
- (b) whether with the implementation of directives of the world trade organization and the world bank the plight of farmers has worsened; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interest of our farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some reports have been received that some organizations of farmers are agitating for seeking solutions to the problems faced by the farming community.

By virtue of signing the WTO Agreement, India is already entitled to get the Most Favoured Nation (M.F.N.) status and national treatment from all WTO members for its exports. Under the ongoing mandated negotiations on the W.T.O. Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), India in its proposals submitted to W.T.O. has sought flexibility in the implementation of its domestic support, elimination of export subsidies, substantial reduction in tariffs including the elimination of tariff peaks and tariff escalations so as to get a meaningful market access for its agricultural products in the developed country markets.

In the wake of removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs), which were maintained on Balance of Payment grounds, Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items and are committed to provide adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various W.T.O. compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound tariffs, anti-dumping and safeguard action, imposition of counter-veiling duties under certain specified circumstances, etc.