

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5477

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2000

WTO AGREEMENTS

DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI;SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI

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

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the Federation of Small and Medium Industries, Calcutta, against the implementation of Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and TRIM in the present form of WTC agreements;

(b) if so, whether India and other developing nations have nothing to gain from WTO agreements as these are in favour of rich nations;

(c) if so, whether the Government are also aware that our export share is merely 0.64% at present in the world trade; and

(d) if so, the manner in which our export share in the world trade would do anything to alter the existing provisions under various WTO agreements;

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) During a Workshop on 'WTO sensitization for Small Scale Industries' held at Calcutta on 15th January 2000, the representative of the Federation of Small and Medium Industries, Calcutta had highlighted the various problems being faced in the implementation of WTO Agreements including inter-alia the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) Agreements.

(b) WTO Agreements have benefitted India in as much as a rule based, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system is the sine qua non for getting effective market access for the exploitation of global trading opportunities especially for developing countries like India who are not a major force in the global market due to their insignificant market share. While all provisions of all WTO Agreements may not be to the liking of all the Member countries, a rule based multilateral trading system is in the overall interests of developing countries like India as it protects Member countries from unilateral actions by the stronger trading partners.

(c) & (d) In WTO each Member country has an equal vote, irrespective of its share in the world trade and decisions are generally taken in WTO, on a consensus basis as per the earlier traditions of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Thus, in order to effect any modifications in the existing provisions under various WTO Agreements, the Member country desiring such a modification will have to seek the support of other member countries with a view to develop a consensus of the entire membership for effecting such a modification. India, with the support of other like minded developing countries, has taken up issues of her concern including those relating to implementation of some of the WTO Agreements, including the TRIPS and the TRIMS Agreements, in the WTO with a view to generate consensus for their redressal.