

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:444

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002

ELIMINATION OF TARIFF ON CONSUMER AND INDUSTRIAL GOODS

V. VETRISELVAN

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

- (a) whether US has put forward a proposal before the WTO to eliminate all tariffs on consumer and industrial goods by 2015;
- (b) if so, whether WTO has fixed a time limit of 2005 for elimination of all tariffs by all the countries;
- (c) if so, whether keeping in view of the WTO decision, India and other developing countries have decided to oppose the move of US Government to eliminate tariffs by 2015; and
- (d) if so, the plan being formulated by the Government in this direction?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI ARUN SHOURIE )

- (a) to (d) - A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 444  
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- (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) No time limit has been fixed by the WTO for the elimination of all tariffs by all countries. However, the negotiations on non-agricultural market access (also commonly referred to as industrial tariffs), are scheduled to be completed by 1 January 2005 along with other negotiations mandated by the Doha Ministerial Declaration, as part of the single undertaking.

India has in its initial reaction to the US proposal said that the radical initiative for eliminating all tariffs by 2015 could perhaps be undertaken by the developed countries. We have also pointed to the absence of any provision in the proposal with regard to special and differential treatment for developing countries. A number of other developing countries have also indicated the difficulties they may have in accepting the US proposal.

The US proposal is but one of several proposals submitted by different countries at the ongoing negotiations in WTO on market access for non-agricultural products. India is also planning to submit certain specific proposals shortly in this regard.