

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:461  
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002  
INDUSTRIAL TARIFF REDUCTIONS  
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to recommend for industrial tariff reductions to the World Trade Organisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have decided to take up the issue of peak tariffs in developed country markets and non-tariff barriers that Indian exports have to face in the negotiation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in that direction?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI ARUN SHOURIE )

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 461 FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2002 REGARDING INDUSTRIAL TARIFF REDUCTIONS

(a) to (e): The reduction of tariffs on non-agricultural products is a subject for negotiations mandated by the Doha Ministerial declaration of the WTO. Several WTO Members have already submitted proposals on modalities for negotiation on this issue and some others have indicated their intention to do so before the deadline of 31 December 2002.

India has already submitted an initial paper on 18th October 2002 outlining India's expectations from the negotiations and suggesting a broad approach that would carry forward the Doha mandate. The paper also inter alia underlined that it would be important from a developing country perspective to ensure that tariff peaks and non tariff measures are effectively dealt with in products of particular export interest to developing countries. India is also proposing to submit a more specific proposal on modalities before the deadline, i.e., 31 December 2002 for which necessary preparations are underway.