

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:570

ANSWERED ON:09.07.2004

WTO CONFERENCE

Meghwal Shri Kailash;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

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

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any strategy to take up the issues at the next round of WTO Conference. If so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has drawn attention of the WTO to eliminate the existing barriers on its services export. If so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there has been any agreement amongst WTO member countries to comply to the foreign investment in education sector, if so, the policy framed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a): The strategy for the next WTO Ministerial Conference will be chalked out as and when any decision is taken regarding the dates of the Conference.

(b): In the on-going WTO negotiations for progressive liberalisation of trade in Services under the Doha Work Programme, India has taken steps to address the twin issue of barriers to movement of natural persons and cross-border trade. The steps taken by India include proposals for liberalisation of movement of professionals, securing access for provision of remote services and making specific requests to our important trading partners in sectors of export interest to India, such as Computer-related Services, Health Services, Accountancy Services and Engineering Services. In this regard, India is working together with like-minded WTO Members.

(c): No, Sir. There is no agreement amongst WTO Members on foreign investment in the education sector. Commitments undertaken by Members regarding liberalisation of various sectors, including education, flow out of the final outcome of the ongoing Services' negotiations among the WTO Members.