

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:600
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2004
PANEL TO FINALISE TRADE ISSUES
Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up a panel of Ministers to finalise the strategy on trade issues particularly on agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the stand of Government in United Nations Conference on Trade and Development meeting held recently in Brazil?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): Yes, Sir. The Cabinet Committee on WTO Matters chaired by the Prime Minister, and consisting of Minister of Defence, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of Steel, Minister of Finance, Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Rural Development, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Department of Ocean Development, will consider and decide on all issues, including on agriculture, pertaining to the World Trade Organization.

(c): The Eleventh Ministerial Conference of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 14-18 June 2004. The Ministerial Conference, which meets every four years, is UNCTAD's highest decision-making body. Its mandate covers independent policy analysis, consensus building, and technical assistance. The UNCTAD Ministerial Conference thus sets priorities and guidelines for the organization in each of these three pillars. India, as a member of the developing countries' Group known as 'G-77 and China', successfully highlighted the concerns of developing countries under the multilateral trading system, and emphasized the centrality of development in any process of globalization. India drew attention to the essentiality of policy space and policy flexibility to incorporate development strategies of national governments. UNCTAD which has provided an invaluable forum for advancing the inter-relationship between trade and development, from both the national and international perspective, across the three pillars of its mandate, should continue its work and provide necessary inputs to the developing countries.