

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:278

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2005

G-33 MEET

Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati;Zahedi Shri Mahboob

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

- (a) whether a conference of G-33 Ministerial group consisting of 42 developing countries held in Jakarta recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its agenda and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether any consensus was evolved therein regarding the production of the domestic farm markets against an undue surge in imports of farm products from the developed nations; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and follow-up action taken thereafter?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. A G-33 Ministerial Meeting was held at Jakarta, Indonesia on 11-12 June 2005 to assess the progress of the agriculture negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and to discuss inter alia the issues of Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism for the developing countries. In the meeting, G-33 stressed that a meaningful and operational special and differential treatment for developing countries should be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations to ensure food security, livelihood security and address the rural development needs of their farmers.

To protect the farmers of the developing countries from surge in imports of farm products and also from price depressions resulting from such surges in imports, the G-33 Ministers sought an operationally effective Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for developing countries.

In the on going negotiations on agriculture in the WTO India, along with other Members of the World Trade Organisation holding similar interests and concerns, is working towards achieving these goals.