

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3022
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005
WTO NEGOTIATIONS
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

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

- (a) whether India had been taking the lead in articulating the interests of developing countries in WTO negotiations of several provisions in the WTO agreement that clearly favoured the developing countries;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken 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), (b) and (c)

Since India became an original Contracting Party in the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade 1947 and right through until now, including when India became a founder Member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on 1 January 1995, India has continued to remain on the forefront articulating its developmental interests, which also find resonance among other developing countries. In the negotiations on agriculture underway in the WTO, India is a founder Member of the developing country alliances, namely, the G-20 and the G-33 on Special Products and the Special Safeguard Mechanism for developing countries. India has continued to emphasise that special and differential treatment for developing countries must be integral to all aspects of the negotiations.