

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2780

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005

INFORMATION COUNTER FOR TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADES AGREEMENT

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) will function like an information counter on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions imposed on manufacturers and exporters to use this facility; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that non-tariff barriers in the form of regulations, standards and testing and certification procedure do not create obstacles to trade?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. As an obligation under the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), the Government has designated Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as its TBT related National Enquiry Point. BIS, as the National Enquiry Point, answers all the reasonable enquiries from the Enquiry Points of other countries pertaining to technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures adopted or proposed to be adopted within the country. BIS also disseminates the TBT Notifications of other WTO member bodies to the national stakeholders. It also functions as information center within the country.

(c) : There are no terms and conditions imposed on manufactures and exporters to use the facility.

(d) : TBT Agreement does not allow WTO- Members to adopt any TBT related measures which create unnecessary trade barriers. If any regulation causes unnecessary trade barriers to our export abroad, the same are addressed appropriately through bilateral or multilateral mode by the Government.