

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3869

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2005

G MEET

Hamza Shri T.K.;Manvendra Singh Shri ;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Rao Shri Devarakonda Vittal;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

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

- (a) whether the Government has attended the first major conclave of the Group of 20 developing countries held recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the issues discussed by the Government on farm subsidy in the meeting along with the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the organisations representing affected sectors were consulted prior to the meeting; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): India hosted a Ministerial Meeting of the G-20 alliance in New Delhi on 18th-19th March 2005. This Meeting was preceded by a meeting of Senior Officials of the G-20 on 17th March 2005. These meetings were also attended, as Observers, by the country-coordinators of key developing country alliances, namely, the G-33 alliance on Special Products and the Special Safeguard Mechanism, Africa-Pacific-Caribbean (ACP) countries, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The objectives of these meetings were, inter alia, to assess the status of the on-going negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and to develop the common position and approach of the G-20 alliance on the various issues of interest and concern. The meetings also established an important outreach to other developing countries in order to advance developmental objectives in the negotiations on agriculture. These include removal of export subsidies and substantial reduction in all forms of distortions in agricultural products caused by high levels of support and protection provided to their agriculture by developed countries while ensuring that developing countries are able to address their rural development, livelihood and food security concerns through appropriate instruments and measures.

(c) and (d): India`s position in the on-going negotiations in agriculture is based on wide-ranging consultations held by the Government from time to time with the Governments of States and Union Territories, representatives of political parties, farmers` associations and other non-governmental bodies, eminent economists and research institutions.