

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1057  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006  
WORLD TRADE LIBERALIZATION TALKS  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether the developing and developed countries proposes to continue the World Trade Organisation`s Doha round on agriculture with the two adamant blocks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the developed countries has agreed to provide a special dispensation for sensitive and special products of developing countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any move from the developed countries to reverse or renegotiate the architecture of negotiation; and
- (f) if so, the response of the Government of India and other developing countries thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) and (b): The suspension of negotiations under the Doha Work Programme in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in July 2006 was to enable the serious reflection by Members and time-out to review the situation, examine available options and review positions, particularly in respect of the divergences in agricultural domestic support and market access issues.

On 16 November 2006 it has been agreed by all WTO Members to resume work in all the negotiating groups across all areas of the Doha Work Programme, including agriculture.

(c) and (d):Through the General Council Decision of August 2004 certain principles and elements to guide the further negotiations towards establishing modalities, inter alia, in agriculture were agreed by all WTO Members, including the developed countries. At the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the WTO held at Hong Kong, a Declaration was adopted at its conclusion, whose key outcomes have included a decision to enable developing countries to self-designation of an appropriate number of Special Products guided by indicators based on the three fundamental criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development needs. These Special Products will be eligible for more flexible treatment. In respect of sensitive products, it was agreed that developed and developing Members may designate an appropriate number, to be negotiated, of tariff lines to be treated as sensitive, and that substantial improvement in market access will be achieved through combinations of tariff

quota commitments and tariff reductions applying to each sensitive product.

(e) and (f): In order to break the impasse in the negotiations, various Members are seeking steeper commitments to substantially and effectively reduce the trade-distorting support provided by the main subsidizing developed countries. Various other Members are seeking improvements in the offers on additional market access, including from developing countries.

The G-20 Ministerial Meeting held at Rio de Janeiro in September 2006, along with country- coordinators of the G-33, the African-Caribbean-Pacific countries, the Least Developed Countries, the African Group, the Small Vulnerable Economies, the Cotton-4, and NAMA-11, emphasized that the livelihood and standards of living of the poor farmers in developing countries are seriously jeopardized by the subsidies and market access barriers prevailing in international agricultural trade, and that any Round that would be faithful to its development dimension must urgently redress this situation. This position has been reiterated since then by India and others. Government has elaborated that the progress made so far in the negotiations must be carried forward.