

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3642
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2006
LIST OF SENSITIVE ITEMS FOR WTO
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Pal Shri Raja Ram

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

- (a) whether import of a number of Indian goods is still restricted in several member countries of the World Trade Organisation;
- (b) if so, the names of such countries together with the Indian goods restricted for import in these countries; and
- (c) the value of exports made from India to each of these countries during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): Under the Rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Member countries of the WTO are required to provide Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Treatment and National Treatment (NT) for import of goods from other WTO Members. India is facing restriction for its exports to Pakistan because of the maintenance of a positive list of products that could be imported from India into Pakistan. Certain exceptions have, however, been provided under WTO Rules, which include forging of free trade agreements, customs unions, etc. The WTO Rules also provide for certain general exceptions under GATT Article XX, such as protection of human, animal or plant life or health; protection of public morals; products of prison labour; conservation of exhaustible natural resources, etc. However, such measures should not be applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries where the same conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on international trade. Also, restrictions could be maintained on security considerations under GATT Article XXI.

Market Access into WTO Member countries could be affected due to various tariff and non-tariff barriers. The tariff barriers could include tariff peaks and tariff escalation in sector such as textiles and clothing, which are encountered in the markets of some WTO Members, particularly developed countries. However, so long as these tariffs are within the bound rates, notified to the WTO, there is no violation of WTO rules. The non-tariff measures include measures imposed in the importing member countries, including on account of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). These measures can be imposed in accordance with WTO Rules. Some important trading partners of India do maintain SPS and TBT measures which sometime impede our exports into these markets. Such measures (SPS, TBT, other regulatory/certification procedures) are applied in a number of WTO Member countries including the United States, European Union, Japan, Canada, People's Republic of China and Republic of Korea in sectors such as agricultural and processed food products (such as tea, Basmati Rice, spices, horticultural products, dairy products, livestock), marine products, and drugs & pharmaceuticals including Ayurvedic medicines.

The Government of India regularly takes up these issues with the respective member governments of the WTO in appropriate fora, namely, meetings of the Joint Commission, meetings of the WTO SPS and TBT Committees, bilateral meetings with the concerned countries.

(c): The value of exports made from India to its top ten trading partners during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 is indicated below:

(Figures in US\$ million)

Name of the WTO Member Exports 2003-04 Exports 2004-05

European Union	14443.58	17245.97
United States of America	11490.11	13265.60
United Arab Emirates	5125.61	7098.14
Hong Kong, China	3261.83	3651.33
People's Republic of China	2955.10	4586.28
Singapore	2124.84	3795.51
Bangladesh	1740.75	1586.18
Japan	1709.30	1977.59
Sri Lanka	1319.20	1353.75
Indonesia	1127.21	1290.69

