

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:475
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
WTO CONFERENCE
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

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

- (a) whether the Government has any strategy for talk at the next round of WTO conference;
- (b) if so, the details of issues intended to be discussed therein;
- (c) whether the Government has drawn attention of the WTO to eliminate the existing barriers on its services export;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any agreement amongst WTO member countries to comply to the foreign investment in education sector;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The main elements of India's strategy at the WTO continue to be as follows:

(i) Increased market access, particularly in developed countries markets, for India's agricultural and industrial products;

(ii) Full development of India's vast potential in the services sector with special emphasis on areas of export interest to India and other developing countries, such as information technology, professional services, and easy access for professionals and skilled persons into developed countries markets;

(iii) Collaborative action with other developing countries to use the WTO as an instrument for global development, with emphasis on the problem of the poorest people; and

(iv) Protection of sensitive and vulnerable sectors in India, especially in agriculture.

(c) & (d): Yes sir, India has emphasised at the WTO negotiations, the need to remove explicit and implicit barriers to trade in services. These include disciplining of Domestic Regulations which act as barriers to effective market access. In order to pursue its interests in services negotiations India has sponsored requests in Cross Border Supply (Mode 1) and Movement of Natural Persons (Mode 4), and is the coordinator of the plurilateral groups in these areas. India is also the co-sponsor of plurilateral groups on Computer and Related Services (CRS) and Architectural, Engineering and Integrated Engineering Services.

India has also made specific requests to its important trading partners in Accountancy Services, Architecture Services, Computer Related Services, Health Services, Construction and Related Services, Engineering and Integrated Engineering Services and Financial Services.

(e) : No sir,

(f) & (g) : Does not arise.