

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:475  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2004  
SCHEME CHALLENGING WTO  
Paswan Shri Ramchandra;Yadav Shri Ramakant

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is formulating a scheme to meet the challenges posed by World Trade Organisation;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has consulted various State Governments in the country in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): India is a founding Member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT). The Doha Ministerial Conference of WTO mandated negotiations on a number of issues including Agriculture, Services and Non-Agricultural Market Access. As part of the ongoing negotiations, India has been able to safeguard its interests through the articulation of our viewpoint in the various negotiating groups as also through issue based coalition building with other WTO Members, as reflected in the Framework Agreement that was adopted on 1st August 2004. The stake holders, including State governments, Industry and Trade Associations etc. are being consulted on a regular basis, while formulating our strategy in WTO. The State Governments are kept informed of the developments in WTO on major issues and their views sought. Meetings of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories are also convened from time to time to discuss important issues.