

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:506

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007

DOHA ROUND OF TALK

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Chinta Mohan Dr. ,Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Suman Shri Ramji Lal

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

- (a) the reasons for the failure of Doha round of negotiations;
- (b) the details of the strategy adopted to make the negotiations successful;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken any decision to protect the interest of the farmers and industrialists of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) The Doha Round of trade negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which were launched in November 2001, are still in progress. The negotiations were suspended on 24 July 2006 in view of the wide gaps in the positions of WTO Members, particularly in respect of market access and domestic support issues in agriculture. The negotiations resumed on 7 February, 2007. On 17 July 2007, the Chairmen of the WTO's Committee on Agriculture-Special Session and the Negotiating Group on Market Access brought out Draft Modalities on Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) respectively. Multilateral discussions on the Draft Modalities texts are being held since September 2007.

(b) Throughout the negotiations, India has been working constructively with coalition partners in developing country groupings, such as the G-20, the G-33 and NAMA 11 to achieve an outcome that would appropriately reflect the development dimension of the Doha Round mandate.

(c) & (d): The needs and interests of the developing and least-developed countries are at the heart of the Doha Work Programme. A substantial and effective reduction in domestic support and tariffs in agriculture by developed countries while enabling developing countries to protect and promote the interests of their low income and resource poor farmers is a key priority for India in the negotiations. The flexibilities available to developing countries would be utilized for protecting the sensitive sectors in non- agriculture from the impact of tariff reductions or bindings.