

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2907

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2004

WTO AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba; Mane Smt. Nivedita; Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore; Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu)

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up a working group to examine the impact of WTO agreement on Agriculture Sector;
- (b) if so, whether the said group has submitted its report to the Government;
- (c) if so, the details of the recommendations made; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the said working group so far?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): In May 2002 the Department of Commerce had constituted an Expert Group on Agriculture which includes eminent agro-economists for consultations with Government on a continuous basis in respect of issues for negotiation on the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. The Expert Group has been meeting from time to time and provides guidance to negotiators depending on the exigencies on the negotiations. In November 2004 the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has constituted an inter-Ministerial Consultative Group to examine the likely impact of the ongoing trade negotiations on agriculture and suggest measures to minimize the adverse consequences. No report has been submitted by either Group.