

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:340

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010

DOHA ROUND OF TALKS

Anandan Shri K.Murugeshan;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

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

- (a) whether India wants the issue of arbitrary quality standards and agricultural and non-agricultural market access to be addressed in the ongoing Doha round of WTO talks;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the progress made in this regard so far;
- (c) whether the views of the industry, experts and the public have been taken into consideration before arriving at the final decision; and
- (d) if, so the steps being taken to conclude the Doha Round Talks within a stipulated time frame?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.340 FOR ANSWER ON 19-04-2010 REGARDING "DOHA ROUND OF TALKS"

(a) & (b): The Doha Round of trade negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) covers several issues as part of a single undertaking. These include Agriculture, Non- Agricultural Market Access (NAMA), Services, Rules, Trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights, Trade and Environment etc. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards and Technical Barriers to Trade, which relate to quality standards, are not part of the Doha Round mandate and are not being negotiated in this Round. Negotiations for finalisation of modalities for agriculture and NAMA are ongoing, based on draft proposals issued in December 2008.

(c): All stakeholders concerned are consulted and their inputs and concerns are taken into consideration while formulating India's negotiating strategy in the WTO negotiations.

(d): WTO members, at the level of senior officials, took stock of the progress of the Doha Round during the week of 22-26 March 2010. There was general agreement that multilateral meetings should continue, supplemented by other avenues as required. They emphasised the need to build on what was already on the table in the shape of Chairs' texts and avoid backtracking and to retain the focus on the development dimension of the Round.