

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3664
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010
SUBSIDY FOR FISHERY SECTOR
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

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

- (a) whether the Developing countries have called for exclusion of small and marginal fishermen from curbs on fisheries subsidy under World Trade Organisation (WTO);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of outcome achieved in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c): Under the work programme of the Doha Round of WTO negotiations, Members are engaged in clarifying and improving the WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies, taking into account the importance of this sector to developing countries.

In the Declaration adopted on 18 December 2005 in the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of WTO, while reaffirming the Doha mandate, Ministers had recalled the commitment to enhancing the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment, and had noted that there is broad agreement that the Group should strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and over-fishing. The ministerial declaration further stated that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least-developed Members should be an integral part of the fisheries subsidies negotiations, taking into account the importance of this sector to development priorities, poverty reduction, and livelihood and food security concerns.

Developing countries including India, Brazil, Indonesia, China, Mexico and Argentina have made proposals before the Negotiating Group on Rules of WTO seeking special and differential treatment to the developing countries in the new fisheries subsidies disciplines under discussion in the WTO. India has recently made a joint proposal along with Brazil, China and Mexico in February 2010 to the WTO seeking inter- alia, special and differential treatment for the developing countries in the fisheries subsidies. The negotiations under the current Doha Round are in progress.