

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:171

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010

DOHA ROUND TALKS H

Hegde Shri Anant Kumar;Yadav Shri Dinesh Chandra

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

- (a) the details regarding the contentious issues in Doha Round talks and the meetings/conferences held recently to resolve the said issues;
- (b) whether some countries are willing to reconsider their earlier decisions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether US is achieving its objective of liberalisation of markets by developing countries through bilateral trade talks; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to remove the bottlenecks of Doha talks?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 171 FOR ANSWER ON 22nd NOVEMBER 2010 REGARDING "DOHA ROUND TALKS"

(a) The Doha Round of trade negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) covers a wide range of subjects including Agriculture, Non-agricultural Market Access (NAMA), Services, Rules etc. In each area there are several contentious unresolved issues, such as, the proposed reductions in domestic subsidies, including cotton subsidies, proposals on Sensitive Products, tariff capping and the Special Safeguard Mechanism in agriculture, additional tariff reductions in specific industrial goods sectors (sectoral initiatives) in NAMA; liberalization of trade in services, development of disciplines on domestic disciplines such as qualifications and licensing requirements and procedures; disciplines on fisheries subsidies (including the extent and scope of the special and differential treatment to developing countries and the attached conditionalities) and several other issues in the area of WTO Rules.

Discussions have been taking place on each area of the negotiations in the respective negotiating groups, in the WTO, supplemented by bilateral and plurilateral meetings and deliberations in coalitions of countries with similar interests on specific issues.

(b) & (c) While meetings are being held on a regular basis, there is no discernible change in positions of Members on the various contentious issues.

(d) & (e) The United States has taken the position that the creation of new trade flows and meaningful market opening, particularly in key emerging markets, namely, India, China and Brazil, is the key to Doha Round success. India and several other countries have consistently emphasised that the purpose of the negotiations could not be to meet the unrealistic demands of one or more members for additional market access, but to arrive at a balanced outcome in line with the development mandate of the Round.

Following the stalemate in the negotiations after the mini-Ministerial meeting in the WTO in July 2008, India sent out a strong signal of support by hosting an informal Ministerial meeting in New Delhi, in September 2009, to re-energise the Round. Negotiations resumed in the WTO soon afterwards. India has consistently expressed its commitment to a strong rules-based multilateral trading system and has been working closely with key developed countries, including the United States, and other developing countries, towards a balanced and development-oriented conclusion of the Doha Round.