

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1616

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

DOHA ROUND TALKS

Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Reddy Shri Komatireddy Raj Gopal;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether a Trade Ministers meeting from World Trade Organisation member countries including India was held in Davos to step up efforts to conclude Doha round of liberalisation talks;
- (b) if so, the details of discussion held in the meeting;
- (c) whether any breakthrough was arrived at between the developed and developing countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and future strategy/agenda chalked out for early conclusion of Doha Round talks?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) Yes, Madam. An informal Ministerial meeting of some Members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was held in Davos on 29 January 2011, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. Ministers agreed, inter alia, on the need to work with higher intensity and to accelerate the negotiations in order to complete the Doha Round of trade negotiations in 2011. They agreed that gaps in positions needed to be bridged and divergences drastically reduced in order to have an overall agreement on a package by July 2011. They also agreed that those who were asking for more in the negotiations should be ready to pay more.

In a separate meeting, the Ministers of India, Brazil, South Africa and China noted that any effort to finalise the Round should not lead to re-opening of stabilized texts which were based on conscious trade-offs, nor should it be premised on new and disproportionate concessions from 'advanced emerging nations', ignoring the Doha mandate.

Negotiations have intensified in the WTO in accordance with a Work Programme agreed amongst WTO members to complete the Round in 2011.