

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2806
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011
OPENING OF GLOBAL FARM TRADE
Rani Killi Krupa

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

- (a) whether a revised draft for opening the global farm trade was circulated at a meeting of Trade Ministers of the key countries including India in 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the present status of the said draft paper?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) From time to time, the Chairman of the negotiating group on agriculture in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has been bringing out draft proposals in the form of a modalities text, based on discussions among Members. In 2008, drafts were issued in February, May, July and December 2008. A draft brought out on 10 July 2008 formed the basis for discussion at a mini-Ministerial Conference of about 30 Ministers that took place in the WTO in July 2008. Subsequently, after further negotiations, another revised version was issued on 6 December 2008, which is the basis for the current negotiations.

The draft modalities contain proposals for cuts in customs duties and limits and other disciplines on domestic and export subsidies, for liberalizing agricultural trade.

India's position and strategy in the negotiations are guided by its concerns relating to the food, income and livelihood security of its farmers and the need to secure additional markets for agricultural products.