

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4259
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AT DOHA
Banerjee Shri Ambica;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that South African Trade Minister has stated that there will be no conclusion to the Doha Round Trade Talks in 2011;
- (b) whether this will adversely affect the decade long negotiations;
- (c) whether huge differences between developing countries have bedevilled the talks aimed at liberalising global trade;
- (d) whether there is a huge pressure from the developed nations to agree to the present form of Chairman's texts on Agreement on Agriculture;
- (e) the details of the adverse effect on the Indian agriculture if the Chairman's text is agreed upon; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in liberalising global trade?

Answer

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

- (a) According to news reports, the South African Trade Minister has said that there would be no conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations in 2011.
- (b) The delay in concluding the Doha Round can undermine the progress achieved in ten years of negotiations and delay the development outcomes of the Round. India has consistently urged the other members of the WTO to work towards an early, balanced and development-oriented conclusion of the Round.
- (c) The differences between some of the developed and developing countries on many key issues, including market access for non-agricultural goods and the extent to which developed countries would cut their farm subsidies, have come in the way of progress in the talks.
- (d) No Madam.
- (e) The current version of the draft text on agriculture was brought out by the Chairman of the agriculture negotiating group on 6 December 2008. It contains proposals for cuts in customs duties; and limits and other disciplines on domestic and export subsidies, for liberalizing agricultural trade. India will have to reduce its ceiling rates of customs duties on some products but the flexibilities that will be available to developing countries, as to the extent of reduction in tariffs and subsidies, and the period over which they will have to implement these reductions, can be used to avoid any adverse effects of the liberalisation of trade in agricultural products. Some issues in the draft text that are of interest to developing countries remain unresolved.
- (f) 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. India has been working closely with other developing countries to ensure substantial and effective reductions in farm subsidies and tariffs for greater access into developed country markets, while enabling developing countries to protect and promote the interests of their low income and resource poor farmers.