

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:136

ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009

RESUMPTION OF DOHA ROUND OF TALKS

Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Muttamwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) the details of measures taken by the Government to resolve the contentious issues between India and the developed countries including US on tariffs, farm subsidies and market access in the Doha round of trade talks and the outcome thereof;
- (b) whether in a recent meeting of Cairns Group held in June, 2009 in Bali, India sought resumption of Doha round of talks to conclude Doha process through constructive engagement;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;
- (d) the reaction of other developing countries on the US stand on the levels upto which developing countries could increase tariffs on farm products; and
- (e) the response from the US Administration on the issue?

Answer

MINISTER 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. 136 FOR ANSWER ON 13TH JULY 2009 REGARDING " RESUMPTION OF DOHA ROUND OF TALKS"

(a) The Doha Round of trade talks at the World Trade Organisation is still in progress. In the agriculture negotiations, India has been working closely with other developing countries to ensure substantial and effective reductions in farm subsidies and tariffs for enhanced market access, while enabling developing countries to protect and promote the interests of their low income and resource poor farmers.

(b) & (c) On the occasion of the 33rd Meeting of the Cairns Group in Bali in June 2009, to which India was invited as a special guest, India's commitment to a successful conclusion of the Doha Round was reaffirmed. However, it was reiterated that the development dimension of the Round had to be honoured and that further discussions must take place on the basis of the outcome of negotiations so far, as contained in texts brought out in December 2008 by the Chairs of the WTO Negotiating Groups on agricultural and industrial goods. India's views were well received by other participants.

(d) & (e) Under the Doha Round, bound tariffs on farm products will only be reduced or maintained at the present bound level. However developing countries will have flexibilities as to the extent of reduction in tariffs.