

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4330

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014

INVESTIGATION OF INDIAN TRADE POLICIES

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the investigation launched by United States (US) Federal Agency to examine a wide range of Indian policies which allegedly discriminate against US trade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether India and US had set up a Trade Policy Forum to expand bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the progress made by the forum in boosting trade relations between the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The Government of India (GoI) has taken cognisance of the unilateral investigations launched by US International Trade Commission (USITC), a quasi-judicial independent US Federal agency, to examine a wide range of Indian policies that discriminate against US trade and investment. Due to its unilateral nature, GoI decided not to participate in the said investigations as an 'in-principle' decision as domestic policy formulation is a country's sovereign right.

(d) to (f): The India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF), announced in July, 2005, is designed to expand bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries. The TPF is co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce & Industry and the United States Trade Representative (USTR). The TPF dialogue has enabled both countries to discuss and resolve each other's issues of concern in boosting bilateral trade and investment.