

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4438

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014

INDO US COOPERATION ON INTERNATIONAL TREATY

Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

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

???????? ?? ?????? ??????

- (a) whether the Government has sought the United States support for an international treaty to protect its traditional knowledge of medicinal plants and herbs from being patented by other nations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the US in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has also sought market access for the Indian goods in the United States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the response of US thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (d): India and US Trade Policy Forum was held on 25th November, 2014. India highlighted the benefits of traditional Indian medicine in view of its potential to enhance access to affordable healthcare; and the importance of traditional knowledge in contributing to cultural, economic and social development. The United States agreed to facilitate further engagement in this field between the experts of both countries.