

(c) The Department of SSI&ARI has forwarded the decisions taken on the various recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee to concerned Central Ministries/ Departments, State Governments and other agencies for further follow up action.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

WTO Agreement

2519. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the conditions India has constrained to accept after signing the WTO agreement;

(b) whether the signing of the said agreement has an adverse impact on interests of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the benefits thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The Uruguay Round package of Agreements inter alia comprise the following:

1. The Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization
2. Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods (including the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994)
3. Agreement on Agriculture
4. Agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
5. Agreement on Textiles and Clothing
6. Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
7. Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures
8. Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994
9. Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994
10. Agreement on Pre-shipment Inspection
11. Agreement on Rules of Origin
12. Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures
13. Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
14. Agreement on Safeguards
15. General Agreement on Trade in Services
16. Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

17. Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes

18. Trade Policy Review Mechanism

19. Plurilateral Trade Agreements (on Civil Aircraft, Government Procurement, International Dairy Agreement and International Bovine Agreement)

Each Agreement contains within itself its own set of rights and obligations

(b) to (d) Government is of the view that the multilateral trading system, which the WTO administers, represents a balance of concessions, which, if properly implemented, brings about orderliness, transparency and predictability in global trade. The principles of Most Favoured Nation treatment of all Member countries by each country as also that of National Treatment or non-discrimination against the products of other Member countries, which are enshrined in the WTO Agreements, more free trade through reduction of tariffs and progressive removal of non tariff barriers, elimination of trade distorting measures, including subsidies, systems of rules to serve as guidelines for national legislation to bring about uniformity in laws and regulations everywhere and simplification of border measures are some of the grains of the system.

However, some of the challenges perceived in the system lie in certain Members not implementing in the proper spirit, the provisions of the WTO Agreement. In meeting this challenge, India has been raising the problems of implementation being faced by her and other developing countries in all appropriate fora, both within and outside WTO. India's latest initiative includes highlighting these matters at the recently concluded Second Ministerial Conference of WTO Trade Ministers in Geneva, held during 18-20 May 1998. The Ministerial Conference has endorsed India's concerns about proper implementation of the WTO Agreement since the Ministerial Declaration has mandated full and faithful implementation of existing WTO Agreements and decisions as the first item of work in the process to be initiated in the General Council as it prepares to make its final recommendations to the Third Session of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO.

Withdrawal of Foreign Assistance

2520. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the projects for which foreign assistance has been cancelled which was to be received as a loan during the current year alongwith the details of the amount of loan and the names of countries from which it was to be received;

(b) the names of the project for which there is no possibility of withholding the loan / grant-in-aid already been sanctioned; and