

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1326
ANSWERED ON 30/07/2024

COLLABORATION WITH WTO MEMBERS COUNTRIES

1326. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR PANIGRAHY:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which the Ministry is collaborating with other World Trade Organization (WTO) member countries to negotiate favourable trade agreements that benefit India's diverse industries and promote sustainable development;
- (b) the manner in which the Ministry plan to engage with stakeholders, including industry representatives and trade experts, to gather insights and feedback on India's participation in the WTO and to effectively represent the country's interests in multilateral trade negotiations; and
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry plan to address any potential trade disputes within the WTO framework to safeguard India's interests and uphold fair trade practices?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) Collaboration with other WTO Member countries is done through (i) Free Trade Agreements (ii) Preferential Trade Agreements and (iii) bilateral Joint Economic Cooperation mechanisms for expanding India's International Trade, reducing non-tariff barriers and deepening economic integration. Interests of diverse industries and domestic sensitivities are factored in while negotiating the agreements. Trade remedial measures such as safeguards and provisions related to sustainable development are also suitably incorporated in the Trade Agreements.

(b) In order to protect India's interests in the multilateral trade negotiations extensive consultations are carried out with stakeholders including industry representatives, Apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Industry Associations, Export Promotion Councils, Trade Experts, Think-tanks, etc. as well as the administrative Ministries and Departments. India's position on WTO Agenda items is firmed up after understanding the offensive and defensive interests on each issue. Coordination with other Members of WTO is also done to bring convergence on issues.

(c) India follows the rules and regulations of the WTO Agreements for addressing any potential trade dispute. Any violation of WTO rules is raised in the Committees and Councils constituted under various WTO Agreements. India engages with the WTO members bilaterally to resolve trade concerns before reaching the dispute stage. If such potential trade disputes are not resolved at Committee and Council levels, then the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism is invoked which provides for resolving trade disputes between members, to procure a rules-based outcome that is consistent with WTO law and practice.
