

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2888
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st MARCH, 2018

**DERIVING ADVANTAGES FROM THE IMPACTS OF WTO
POLICIES**

2888. SHRI MANISH GUPTA

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has been able to derive any decisive advantages from the impacts of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) policies, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether there is any serious conflict in the WTO between rich and developing countries in respect of retention of subsidies and resisting opening of the markets of the former; if so, the details thereof

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

- a) The WTO rules have been framed and adopted through a process of consensus. India, like many other developing countries, joined the consensus after ensuring that its trade interests would be protected. The trade rules of the WTO, its dispute settlement mechanism and methods of decision-making provide stability and predictability to the global trading system. As a developing country, India has been able to get the benefit of various special and differential treatment provisions in the WTO Agreements. These special provisions include, for example, longer time periods for implementing Agreements and commitments or measures to increase trading opportunities for developing countries. The opening in the global markets has helped Indian trade both in goods and services.
- b) There are differences in the positions of the developed and developing countries on various issues under negotiation in the WTO. For example, in the agriculture negotiations, while developed countries are now focusing on gaining more market access for their exports, developing countries have been calling for the elimination of the large agricultural subsidies provided by developed countries, which was one of the key objectives of the negotiations. Further, exports from developing countries also face various non-tariff barriers in developed country markets.
