

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2889
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st MARCH, 2018

WTO'S AGENDA FOR RESOURCE POOR FARMING FAMILIES

2889. SHRI MANISH GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has any visible agenda for the resource-poor farming families;
- (b) whether the WTO Agreement requires India to pay more attention to quality, value addition and the sustainability aspects of its agriculture, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether there is a mismatch between production and post-harvest technologies and lack of infrastructure for handling perishable commodities affecting India's exports?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Special and differential treatment provisions are available for developing countries across the agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which, *inter-alia*, are intended to safeguard the interests of low income or resource-poor farmers in developing countries. In terms of the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, input and investment subsidies can be provided without any limit to low-income, resource-poor farmers in developing countries.
- (b) : The WTO rules regarding sanitary and phytosanitary measures allow countries to adopt or enforce measures necessary to protect human, animal and plant life or health subject to the requirement that these measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between WTO members or a disguised restriction on international trade. Such provisions encourage WTO members to improve their farming methods and the manner in which they use various inputs such as chemicals and pesticides.
- (c) : Exports of agricultural products depend on a number of factors including the availability and quality of production and post-harvest technology and infrastructure. All such factors are taken into account while framing agricultural trade policy.
