

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1007
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th DECEMBER, 2018

UNDERPAID RESEARCH FELLOWS

1007. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) whether India has lately faced multiple setbacks at the WTO for nonconformity with the covered agreements, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the think tanks established by Government for reviewing country's internal laws to conform to international commitments at the WTO;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the research fellows at these think tanks are extremely underpaid as compared to their foreign counterparts, and hired contractually;
- (d) whether Government think that such dis-incentives are the reasons for country's setbacks at the WTO; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken to raise pay scales and remedy the situation?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No, Sir. Raising concerns and issues on member's policies is a part of discussion process in various committees and bodies of the WTO. Besides, members can also take each other to disputes for breach of WTO rules. India has been responding to questions raised on its policies like many other members in the relevant bodies of the WTO. India is also defending and articulating its policies on all disputes brought against it and has also taken some of the members to disputes on their policies.
- (b) to (e) The three centres namely Centre for WTO Studies, Centre for Regional Trade and Centre for Trade & Investment Law under Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) assist Department of Commerce in its WTO related work. The salaries are commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the individuals hired by these centres.
