

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 998
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th DECEMBER, 2018

TRADE FACILITATION IN SERVICES IN WTO

998. SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY

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

- (a) whether India has submitted any proposal for trade facilitation in services in WTO;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the details of steps taken by Government to smoothen up trade facilitation for India around the globe and overcome issues such as work visas, temporary stay norms, permits, taxes, fees, charges and contribution in social security accounting sector?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b) and (c): India tabled the “Concept Note for an initiative on Trade Facilitation in Services” (S/WPDR/W/55) at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on 6th October, 2016 with the objective to briefly outline the concept of a Trade Facilitation Agreement for Services (TFS Agreement). Subsequently, India tabled a follow-up proposal dated 14th November, 2016 on “Possible Elements of a Trade Facilitation in Services Agreement” (S/WPDR/W/57) at the WTO, which outlines the possible elements of the TFS Agreement, as conceived by India, in a more detailed manner.

On 22nd February, 2017, India tabled a draft legal text on Trade Facilitation in Services at the WTO to facilitate discussions among WTO members and to take forward this agenda. Based on the comments received from Members on the Indian proposal, India tabled a revised draft text on TFS for consideration of Members on 27th July, 2017.
