

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2681
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th MARCH, 2018

WTO NEGOTIATIONS

2681. SHRI PREM DAS RAI:

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

- (a) the details of the plan of the Government on ensuring sustained focus on agriculture and development in World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations;
- (b) whether the Government aims on moving forward with the new issues along with the issues like e-commerce and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises which are also of increasing importance to India today; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the manner in which India aims to maintain the relevance of WTO in future negotiations and the forthcoming mini-ministerial Meet?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

- (a) India's position in the World Trade Organization (WTO) is that negotiations on issues such as agriculture, which are already on the agenda of the WTO, must be prioritized and concluded. India has also emphasized that development must remain central to the work of the WTO. As part of various developing country groups in the WTO, India's focus in the WTO is to protect the livelihood and food security interests of people in developing countries.
- (b) On the new issues that are sought to be introduced into the negotiating agenda of the WTO, India's position is that negotiations on any new issue in the WTO can commence only with the consensus of WTO members.
- (c) India is a strong supporter of the multilateral trading system and has been working constructively with members of the WTO to ensure that multilateralism is strengthened through collaborative efforts. It is in this spirit that India is hosting an Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering in New Delhi with the objective of facilitating an exchange of views on various issues and challenges relating to the multilateral trading system.
