

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 451**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 05<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018**

**TRADE IN SERVICES AGREEMENT**

451. SHRIMATI VANAROJA R.:

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

- (a) whether India's move to have a global agreement for facilitating trade in services aimed at making the visa regime for technology professionals and nurses more predictable has received a setback at the World Trade Organisation(WTO);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the WTO members do not see an outcome at the ministerial meeting in Argentina and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether many WTO members are of the view that the issue is not ripe for discussion at the biennial meeting of WTO's top decision making body; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**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) to (e): In September 2016, India tabled the 'Concept Note for an initiative on Trade Facilitation in Services (TFS)' at the WTO and, following discussions in Geneva, a revised draft legal text on TFS was tabled in July 2017 at the WTO. The objective behind India's proposal for an Agreement on Trade Facilitation in Services is to carry forward discussions at the WTO on how to comprehensively address numerous border and behind-the-border barriers across all modes of supply, which are impediments to realization of the full potential of services trade. Concerns of member states on scope, content, mandate and certain provisions related to movement of professionals, portability of social security contributions, cross border health insurance coverage and cross border data flows are being discussed in the relevant WTO Committees. India has urged members to engage constructively on this initiative.

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