

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4901
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th MARCH, 2018

STRATEGY ON PRODUCT STANDARDS

4901. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any strategy recently which will play an active role and take leadership positions in apex international forums in related areas besides creating response mechanisms to global developments on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment practices that impact market access of Indian goods and services;
- (b) if so the details thereof;
- (c) whether it will develop comprehensive ecosystem for standards development taking into account diversity of interests and expertise available; and
- (d) 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) & (b): The Department of Commerce has been engaged in organizing various standards conclaves to address the issues concerning regulatory ecosystem in the country in a structural manner. 4 National Standards Conclaves and 10 Regional Standards Conclaves (in states) have been organised since 2014. In these conclaves various stakeholders ranging from government regulators, inspection agencies, standards developing organizations, state governments and industry associations participate and strategise so as to address the issue of increasing non-tariff barriers in foreign markets as well as situation of sub-standard and counterfeit imports into the country. During the last National Standards Conclave held at New Delhi on 1-2 May 2017, a draft strategy paper titled 'Indian National Standards Strategy (INSS)' was discussed and now a draft final strategy document has been finalized and is available in public domain for public comments. Besides other key objectives like developing a comprehensive ecosystem in India for standards development, using standards as enhancer of competitiveness of Indian goods and services, adopting best practices in standardization, conformity assessment and technical regulations, providing level playing field to domestic industry and creating response mechanisms to global developments on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment practices that impact market access of Indian goods and service, INSS identifies having proactive participation in apex international forums in related areas.

(c) & (d): INSS is the result of deliberations over a four-year period from 2014 to 2017 through national and regional standards conclaves that attracted wide participation of experts and stakeholders from Union and State governments, industry, regulatory bodies, national and overseas standards and conformity bodies, academics and international fora. The available standards strategy documents of other countries has also been factored into this consultation process so as to be in line with global best practices in this sector.
