

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4951
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th MARCH, 2018

WTO MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

4951. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN:

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

- (a) whether the United States has stated that India blocked the ministerial declaration of World Trade Organisation (WTO);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether it is true that the Marrakesh Agreement was not in India's interest and 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) Yes, Madam. In the 2018 Trade Policy Agenda and 2017 Annual Report of the President of the United States, it is stated that at the end of the conference (the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization held in Buenos Aires in December 2017), the United States and all Members, except India, were prepared to sign a short Ministerial Declaration.

It is a fact that India could not support the proposed draft of the Ministerial Declaration as it excluded or failed to adequately include important issues such as multilateralism, the Doha Development Agenda and special and differential treatment of developing countries.

c) The Marrakesh Agreement of 1995 established the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Agreement aims to achieve certain objectives through the multilateral trading system, such as, raising living standards, ensuring full employment, ensuring a large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective

demand and expanding the production of, and trade in, goods and services, while allowing for the optimal use of the world's resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development.

The Agreement also recognizes the need for positive efforts to ensure that developing countries, and especially the least-developed among them, secure a share in the growth in international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development.

With these objectives in mind, the WTO rules have been framed and adopted through a process of consensus. India, like many other developing countries, has joined the consensus while ensuring that its trade interests are protected. The trade rules of the WTO, its dispute settlement mechanism and methods of decision-making provide stability and predictability to the global trading system. As a developing country, India has been able to get the benefit of various special and differential treatment provisions in the WTO Agreements. These special provisions include, for example, longer time periods for implementing Agreements and commitments or measures to increase trading opportunities for developing countries. The opening in the global markets has helped Indian trade both in goods and services.
