

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5630**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 02<sup>nd</sup> APRIL, 2018**

**INDIA'S STAND ON E-COMMERCE AT WTO**

5630. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether India had taken a hard stand at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting held in Buenos Aires on e-commerce, investment facilitation and norms for small firms access to the global marketplace;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that on e-commerce, India had laid preconditions for giving its consent for extension of a moratorium that constrains member nations from levying customs duties on electronic transmission; 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) : At the Eleventh Ministerial Conference that took place at Buenos Aires, Argentina during 10-13 December 2017, many countries including India did not agree to multilateral decisions on Investment Facilitation and MSMEs proposed by some countries, for which there was no consensus/mandate.

As regards e-commerce, India is a part of the multilateral decision arrived at Buenos Aires which inter-alia reaffirms to continue to work under the "Work Programme on Electronic Commerce" adopted by the WTO in 1998 and extends the current practice of not imposing customs duty on electronic transmission until the next WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in 2019. Along with this India is also a part of the multilateral decision on a two year moratorium on TRIPS non violation and situation complaints.

(c) & (d): Yes Madam. India had laid the following preconditions for giving its consent for extension of a moratorium that constrains member nations from levying customs duties on electronic transmission:

- i. Similar moratorium on TRIPS Non-Violation and Situation Complaints at the WTO;  
and
- ii. To continue to work under the "Work Programme on Electronic Commerce" adopted by the WTO in 1998.

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