

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5707
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02nd APRIL, 2018

ISSUE OF FOOD SECURITY AT WTO

5707. ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken up the issue of food security with the Chief of World Trade Organisation during his last visit to the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is true that the developed countries have not been forthcoming in finding a permanent solution to the problem and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the stand of India on the issue?

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) The issue of public stockholding for food security purposes is a matter of priority for India in the World Trade Organization (WTO). This has been emphasized by India in the WTO as well as in various bilateral interactions including those with the Director General of the WTO.
- (b) As per previous Ministerial decisions of the WTO, a permanent solution relating to public stockholding for food security purposes was to be achieved by the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Buenos Aires, Argentina in December 2017. However, a decision could not be reached due to lack of consensus.
- (c) India has been working closely with other members of the WTO on this issue, especially the members of the G33 coalition of developing countries. India has held a consistent position that the issue is critical for developing countries and an outcome must be achieved as per the Ministerial mandate in the WTO. In the meantime, India's public stockholding programmes continue to be protected by a mechanism put in place by previous Ministerial Decisions of the WTO, which is available in perpetuity.
