

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3150
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06th AUGUST, 2018

WTO

3150. SHRI V. ELUMALAI:

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

- (a) whether the existence of multilateral trading platform, the World Trade Organisation is now under threat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether India strongly supports its need for regulating trade norms and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some WTO member countries are now questioning the accepted trading norms; 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): Many member countries of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) have, from time to time, expressed concern on the challenges being faced by the organisation in upholding and promoting the principles of multilateralism and non-discrimination. The challenges include the current impasse in appointing members to existing vacancies in the Appellate Body of the WTO, some members questioning the principles of special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries and least-developing countries (LDCs), which are an integral part of the WTO agreements and questionable unilateral trade measures and resulting counter measures which risk escalation to a trade war and undermining of the cardinal principles and credibility of the WTO's rules-based system.

In an effort to revitalize the WTO, Members have been continuously engaging among themselves through various informal/formal meetings. Similar initiative was taken by the Government of India by organizing an Informal Ministerial Meeting of WTO members during 19-20 March, 2018 in New Delhi with the objective of facilitating an exchange of views on various issues and challenges relating to the multilateral trading system.

India is a strong supporter of the rules-based multilateral trading system with special and differential treatment provisions for developing and least-developing countries. India has been working constructively with other members of the WTO to ensure that multilateralism is strengthened through collaborative efforts.
