

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 732
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd JULY, 2018

TRADE FACILITATION PACT ON SERVICES

732. SHRI V. ELUMALAI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has pitched for inclusion of the trade facilitation pact on services in the World Trade Organisation (WTO);
- (b) whether this would help to promote growth of global economy and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is working on trade facilitation in the services sector at WTO; 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), (c) and (d): Yes, madam. India tabled the "Concept Note for an initiative on Trade Facilitation in Services" at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on 6th October, 2016 with the objective to briefly outline the concept of a Trade Facilitation Agreement for Services (TFS Agreement). This was followed up with a proposal dated 14th November, 2016 on "Possible Elements of a Trade Facilitation in Services Agreement" which outlines the possible elements of the TFS Agreement, as conceived by India, in a more detailed manner.

On 22nd February, 2017, India tabled a draft legal text on Trade Facilitation in Services at the WTO to facilitate discussions among WTO members and to take forward this agenda. Subsequently, based on the comments received from members, India tabled a revised draft text on TFS for consideration of members on 27th July, 2017.

India believes that an Agreement on Trade Facilitation in Services can result in reduction of transaction costs associated with unnecessary regulatory and administrative burdens on

cross-border movement of services. India's proposal for an Agreement on TFS is to comprehensively address the numerous border and behind-the-border barriers impeding trade in services across all modes of supply, which could significantly enhance the potential for trade in services for all WTO Members.
