

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4017 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th JULY, 2019

WTO

4017(H). SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA:

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

- (a) whether the General Council of World Trade Organisation (WTO) has accepted India's demand to exempt it from the extant subsidy rules till the country gets permanent solution regarding its food stock;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the benefits received on this account;
- (c) whether efforts have been made to find out a permanent solution to food security issue and thus to assess the agriculture subsidy and present the same in WTO meeting which is likely to be held in Nairobi and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some countries have opposed the said exemption beyond 2015; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made to ensure the continuance of the exemption?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

- (a) & (b) The decision taken by the General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in November 2014 makes it clear that the mechanism, under which WTO members will not challenge the public stockholding programme of developing Members for food security purposes, in relation to certain obligations under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, will remain in place in perpetuity until a permanent solution regarding this issue is agreed and adopted. The decision thus protects India's public stockholding programme from any apprehension of breaching its commitments under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. This decision also includes a commitment to find a permanent solution.
- (c) , (d) & (e) The Nairobi Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in December 2015 reaffirmed, with consensus, the Interim Peace Clause decided during the Bali Ministerial Conference in 2013 and the General Council Decision of 2014 providing perpetual protection to public stockholding programmes of a developing Member for food security purposes from being challenged in relation to certain obligations under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture until a permanent solution is agreed and adopted. At Nairobi, Members also agreed to work constructively towards achieving a permanent solution. India is a member of G-33, a coalition group of developing Members, and has been making all efforts to negotiate and achieve a positive outcome on the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes.
