

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4632**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**EQUITABLE ACCESS TO MEDICINES**

4632. DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:  
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:  
SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:  
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY :

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

- (a) whether the Government has requested before the WTO in the TRIPS council, for a waiver during COVID-19 to allow more countries to get equitable access to medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this proposal has put the developed world under pressure, who are trying to protect the interests of some pharmaceutical companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**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) : India and South Africa have submitted a proposal for waiver from certain provisions of the Trade Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement for the prevention, treatment and containment of COVID-19, to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) TRIPS Council on 2nd October 2020. The objective of the proposal is to ensure that the intellectual property rights do not create a hurdle in rapid scaling up of manufacturing capacities throughout the globe to meet the objective of equitable, timely and affordable access for all to vaccines, therapeutics and other goods required to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (c) & (d) After the submission to the TRIPS Council in October 2020, the waiver proposal has now been co-sponsored by 57 WTO members with many members supporting from

the floor. The waiver proposal has also received support from the civil society groups and the World Health Organisation.

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