

WTO at Geneva from 18-20 May 1998. India urged rejection of protectionism and unilateral actions and emphasised full and effective implementation of the provisions of the WTO agreements, particularly those relating to improving market access of products from developing countries. India has also demanded that WTO provisions providing special and differential treatment to developing countries should be effectively implemented so that the full benefits of these provisions accrue to developing countries. India's concerns have been endorsed by the WTO membership as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration issued at the end of the Conference.

#### **Tenth Finance Commission**

454. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to legislate on the proposal to create Single Divisible Pool for Central Taxes with 29% share of States in view of the Tenth Finance Commission's recommendations ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard ;

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto ; and

(e) the Government's decision thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (e) On the basis of consensus reached in the Third Meeting of the Inter State Council held on July 17, 1997, the Government has accepted with slight modifications the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission to create a single divisible pool for almost all Central Taxes with 29% share devolving on the States.

The required Constitution Amendment Bill is likely to be introduced in the current Budget Session.

#### **Areas suggested by World Tourism Organisation**

455. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Tourism Organisation, a Madrid-based United Nation agency propose to launch a full scale tourism development programme for India this year ;

(b) if so, whether the Government in response to a specific proposal made by this organisation has identified six major areas for regional planning ; and

(c) if so, the areas identified for this purpose and details of the proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (c) The World Tourism Organisation has drawn a Programme Support Document for launching a study project for the planning of integrated and controlled development of tourism in Goa and Sindhudurg region, Rajasthan desert triangle ; Bekal beach area in Kerala, Mamallapuram beach area with linkages to Chennai and Pondicherry, Puri beach area in Orissa and North Eastern States. The document was referred to the UNDP for financial support, by the Deptt. of Tourism through the Deptt. of Economic Affairs. The proposal was however not approved by the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) for financial support.

#### **Coal Supply agreement with Private Sector Power Producers**

456. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal India Limited or its subsidiaries have entered into any coal supply agreement with private sector power producers ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ;

(c) whether any counter guarantees have been obtained at the time of signing of such agreement ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) No coal supply agreement has been entered into so far by Coal India or its subsidiaries with Private Sector Producers. However discussions are being held with several IPPs towards concluding such agreements.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

#### **Anti-Dumping Bill**

457. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Newsprint industry in the country is passing through an unprecedented crisis due to delay in framing the Anti-dumping Bill ; and

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Custom Tariff Act, 1975 already provides for the matters relating to investigations and imposition of Anti-dumping duties. Investigations in the case of imports of newsprint from USA, Canada and Russia have been conducted under the said Act, and the rules made thereunder. The final findings have already been announced by way of a Gazette Notification dated 19.3.98.