

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:962  
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2001  
WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
PRABODH PANDA

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference is proposed to be held later this year at Doha;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to hold formal discussion with political parties and State Governments as to what stand has to be taken in the proposed conference; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI MURASOLI MARAN )

(a) : Yes, Sir. The 4th WTO Ministerial Conference is scheduled to be held from 9th - 13th November 2001 at Doha, Qatar.

(b) & (c) : The Government have continuously been engaged in active consultations on WTO issues with all stakeholders including Political Parties and the State Governments. Various initiatives of the Government in this regard include national level consultations with the representatives of all Political Parties and with the State Food and Agriculture Ministers in September 2000, discussions with the Hon'ble Members in the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee related to Department of Commerce held in February 2001, Workshop on WTO issues for all Chief Secretaries / Administrators of States and Union Territories in March 2001, Conference of the Chief Ministers on WTO Agreement on Agriculture and Food Management held on 21.5.2001, and specific presentations by Government officials on WTO issues in the various Seminars and Workshops at various places in the country. Another workshop on WTO issues with the participation of Chief Secretaries/Administrators of Governments of all States & Union Territories has been organised on 26th July, 2001. The Department has also offered to send resource person(s) for any Seminar/Workshop on WTO related issues as may be organised by the Governments of the States/Union Territories.