

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:880  
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003  
REMOVAL OF BARRIERS ON AGRICULTURAL EXPORT  
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

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

- (a) whether the Hon`ble Prime Minister during his visit to St. Petersburg has called the G-8 countries to phase out the trade distorting agricultural subsidies and removal of barriers to agricultural exports, while ensuring the livelihood security of billions of farmers in developing countries;
- (b) if so, the specific barriers in agricultural exports sought to be removed; and
- (c) the response of the G-8 countries thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): The Hon`ble Prime Minister made this statement at the G-8 Enlarged Dialogue in Evian on 1 June 2003, and not during his visit to St. Petersburg. Prime Minister expressed disappointment at the lack of progress so far on the Millennium Development Round since the Doha Meeting. Prime Minister underlined the need to rapidly eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to developing country exports and to phase out all trade-distorting agricultural subsidies, while ensuring the livelihood security of billions of farmers in developing countries.

(c): The issues raised by the Hon`ble Prime Minister were also reflected in the statements of some of the other developing country participants in the Enlarged Dialogue. While there was no formal comment by the G-8 on the issues raised in the dialogue, some of the concerns were reflected in the G-8 Declaration adopted on 3rd June 2003. In particular, the Declaration reiterated the importance of improved market access for all World Trade Organisation (WTO) Members in all trade areas, including in agricultural and non-agricultural goods, in order to benefit economic growth, in particular, in the developing countries. The Declaration directs G-8 Members to work with WTO Members towards developing, inter alia, fairer and less distorted conditions for world trade.