

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:902
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
SHARE OF SERVICE SECTOR IN WORLD MARKET
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

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

- (a) whether IT services sector holds bright prospects for exports of services under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) regime under the World Trade Organisation (WTO);
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for promotion of exports of such services and protecting the interests of Indian professional and service providers under the WTO regime;
- (c) whether India's potential for providing efficient services especially in Information Technology sector was also recognized and marketed at the recent WTO round of negotiations in Geneva; and
- (d) if so, the success achieved in securing due share in these services in the world market under the GATS regime?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. Information Technology is one of the service sectors where India has immense potential for exports, including under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) regime.
- (b) to (d) Under the GATS negotiations, Initial Requests have been placed on our trading partners for taking full sectoral commitments and removal of limitations and barriers experienced by the Information Technology industry and professionals for getting meaningful access in their markets. In addition, India had also submitted a negotiating proposal on Computer and Related Services for discussion in the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) with the objective of bringing about deeper liberalisation and removal of barriers being faced by our IT professionals and service providers. Our keen interest in the Information Technology sector in providing more access for our service providers and IT professionals in markets abroad and the advantages that would accrue to other countries through liberalisation of this sector are duly emphasised during the ongoing discussions in the context of the mandated negotiations under GATS, through bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral initiatives. The success in these negotiations in securing a share for these Services in the world market under the GATS regime is not something that can be quantified.