

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:904
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2003
STRATEGY FOR WTO SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

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

- (a) whether the Government have approved the broad strategy for the WTO services negotiations under which India would be willing to open up several services including professional health financial computer related architecture tourism and house keeping;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of countries to whom India has made its offer and how many countries have responded to it;
- (d) whether this strategy enables the Commerce Ministry to make the offer in services in consultation with concerned Ministries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the total trade likely to be made by India after opening these sectors to WTO services?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): The overall negotiating strategy being adopted by India in the context of the on-going services negotiations in the WTO in order to secure desirable concessions from other Member countries has been evolved in close coordination with all concerned stake holders including the Ministries and industry bodies. The final decision on the extent to which commitments would be offered by India in various sectors will depend on the assessment of the gains from commitments offered by trading partners.
- (c) to (f): India has not submitted any offer in services in the context of the on-going round of negotiations so far. The offer, when made, will be based on an assessment of the balance of gains in the negotiations, which cannot be quantified in the form of increased exports at this stage.