

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2648  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003  
FOOD SECURITY BOX  
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

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

whether WTO authorities have agreed to the demand of creation of a Food Security Box to take care of India's Food security and livelihood concerns;

(a) if so the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the further efforts being made by the Government to take up the issue of setting up a Food Security Box in the WTO regime?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): India has continuously been seeking to protect food and livelihood security of its vast population dependent on the agriculture sector in the on-going negotiations on agriculture in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). In its initial negotiating proposals submitted to the Committee of Agriculture in January 2001, India had, inter alia, proposed the creation of a Food Security Box for developing countries covering all the three pillars of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, namely, market access, domestic support and export competition. While all negotiating proposals remain on the table, the Revised First Draft of Modalities for the Further Commitments presented by the Chairman of the WTO Committee on Agriculture, Special Session, proposes special and differential treatment for developing countries across all the three pillars, but leaves certain elements to Members to negotiate further upon. These include proposals to address food security and rural development and/or livelihood security in developing countries through lower tariff reduction on products designated as Special Products and a new Special Safeguard Mechanism against likely import surges and international price volatility. In the domestic support pillar also, the Draft modalities propose exemption from reduction commitments in respect of Governmental support to domestic agriculture to address food and livelihood security concerns. Divergences among Members remain on key aspects of the various proposals on modalities for negotiations on agriculture, including the levels of ambition in the reduction commitments across all the three pillars by all WTO Members as well as the extent and nature of special differential treatment for developing countries.

Negotiations are still under way to establish modalities for negotiations on agriculture as soon as possible. Under the Doha Ministerial Declaration of 14 November 2001 the negotiations are scheduled to conclude by 1 January 2005.