

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4013
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2003
CUSTOMS DUTIES ON MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

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

- (a) whether the World Trade Organisation has asked the member countries reduce customs duties on manufactured products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have taken up this issue with the WTO; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the further reaction of WTO in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Duty reductions on non-agricultural products, also commonly called industrial goods, is a subject for negotiation mandated by the Doha Ministerial Declaration of the WTO. At this stage, negotiations for finalization of the modalities for the actual tariff negotiations are being conducted. Several WTO members, including India, have submitted proposals on modalities for negotiations.

All proposals, written and oral, have been taken into consideration by the Chairman of the Negotiating Group on Market Access who has himself drafted elements of modalities for negotiation by Members and possible agreement thereon. The Chairman's proposal is presently being discussed in the WTO.