

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:985  
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2000  
DRAFT FOR WTO MEETING  
JAI PRAKASH

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

- (a) whether the Government have prepared the draft of the proposal to be discussed in the next round of negotiations in the World Trade Organisation;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the various State Governments thereto;
- (c) the details of deliberations made in the national seminar jointly organised by the Ministries of Agriculture and Commerce in Delhi on `Agro Agreement in the WTO`; and
- (d) the steps being taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SH. MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (d) : The negotiations, as provided under Article 20 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, have commenced this year and a decision has been taken in the Special Session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture that member countries may submit their proposals by the end of December, 2000 with some flexibility to make additional proposals by 31st March 2001. The Government of India has yet to finalise its proposals for the negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture.

With a view to evolve a national consensus, the Department of Commerce has put up a broad position paper on agricultural negotiations on its web-site with address ([www.commin.nic.in](http://www.commin.nic.in)) for soliciting feedback from the various stake holders and the general public. The Government has also initiated consultations with all state governments, academicians, farmers organisations, agricultural universities and has sought their inputs with regard to the ongoing negotiations. These inputs would be duly considered while evolving the Indian negotiating position on agriculture.

In this context, a one day national seminar on `WTO Agreement on Agriculture: India`s negotiating agenda` was organised on 10th June, 2000 at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade New Delhi.

There was a general perception in the above said seminar that as of now the WTO Agreement on Agriculture is heavily tilted in favour of the developed countries and it may be desirable to seek substantial changes in the various provisions in the Agreement to make it equitable. It was also recommended that India should continue to press for its food security and livelihood concerns in the negotiations.