

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1524
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000
WTO SUMMIT
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

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

(a) the details of proposals and issues relating to agricultural development and plant protection rights of developing countries discussed at the January 2000 WTO Summit; and

(b) the decisions taken thereon ?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b) Various proposals, ranging from procedural to substantive matters were made by the WTO Members for consideration during the mandated negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture at the Third Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Seattle, USA held from 30th November- 3rd December 1999. Similarly, some proposals expressing the need of WTO Members to retain flexibility relating to protection of plant varieties were also made as a part of the review of Article 27.3 (b) of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) However, no decision was taken at the Third WTO Ministerial Conference, as it was inconclusive.

The General Council of the WTO in its meeting on February 7-8, 2000 at Geneva has decided that the mandated negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture would be conducted through special sessions of the Agriculture Committee and its first meeting has been scheduled in March 2000.