

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2395  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2004  
GENEVA MEET  
Chaliha Shri Kirip

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

- (a) whether trade representatives of different countries recently met at Geneva;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the issue of protecting the interest of Indian farmers in view of Western countries extending huge subsidies to their own farmers was taken up by the Indian representative in the Geneva meet; and
- (d) if so, what is the outcome?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. Representatives of the Members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) have been meeting in the WTO Committee on Agriculture, Special Session, from time to time to negotiate modalities for further commitments under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. They met formally last on 25 June 2004 in Geneva. The Committee has been working under the broader objective of reaching possible agreement on agriculture, which will then be considered, along with proposals on non-agricultural products and other areas included in the Doha Work Programme, by the General Council of WTO at its meeting scheduled for 27-29 July 2004.

India working within the G-20 alliance on agriculture, and with other like-minded countries, has been seeking substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, elimination of all forms of export subsidies provided by developed countries and substantial market access improvements particularly in products of export interest to developing countries. Any further commitments in market access by developing countries have to fully take into account their rural development and food and livelihood security needs. Special and differential treatment for developing countries must be integral to all elements of the negotiations. These negotiations are formally scheduled to conclude by 1 January 2005.