

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3438
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2004
WTO AGREEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Nitish Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether any dialogue has been initiated by the Government with other countries particularly with America and England to allow unrestricted flow of Indian businessmen and labour class to their countries for exploring employment opportunities in the wake of removal of all restrictions on export and import in the country as per the agreement with the World Trade Organisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the reaction of the Government to the talks held; and
- (e) the time by which the government is likely to take up this issue with the countries?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) India is actively participating in the ongoing mandated negotiations at the World Trade Organisation to bring about progressive liberalisation of trade in services. In the context of efforts to ease the movement of natural persons, India had submitted a proposal on liberalisation of such movement at the WTO, identifying the barriers faced and suggesting strategies to achieve meaningful liberalisation. India is working together with like-minded countries with the aim of bringing about broader commitments, particularly for skilled professionals, by a larger number of WTO members, including countries like the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, requests at the bilateral level have been made to these and other countries in individual service sectors seeking the removal of barriers to access.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) & (e) Negotiations on these issues are underway and will continue until the end of this round of negotiations on 31.12.2005. Government will continue to work actively with these countries to bring about a favourable outcome to these efforts.