

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1796
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2006
LIST OF SENSITIVE ITEMS FOR WTO
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the list of sensitive items for consideration by World Trade Organisation (WTO) in order to protect agricultural and sea food products has been finalised:
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the items included in this list;
- (c) whether the concerned sector were consulted prior to finalisation of the list; and
- (d) if so, the details of the meetings held in this regard alongwith the details of the representatives participated in these meetings?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): The list of sensitive items of agricultural and seafood products has not yet been finalised. Towards evolving India`s negotiating strategies and position on all aspects of the negotiations underway on the Agreement on Agriculture of the WTO, including listing of sensitive items, the Government has been holding consultations with stakeholders and concerned sectors from time to time since the year 2000. In many of these consultations, open notices were issued to invite information and participation from agri-economists, farmers` associations, research institutions, consumer organisations, and any other interested party. Further, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, organises consultations with Governments of States/Union Territories on agriculture-related issues two times in a year, before the Rabi season and the Kharif season. In the last three years during all these meetings, the Governments of States/Union Territories were sensitised and consulted on the important issues relating to WTO negotiations. Agriculture Minister and Commerce and Industry Minister have also jointly met representatives of a number of farmers` organisations/associations, the last meeting in respect of which was on 8 December 2005 for consultations on agri-related WTO issues.