

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1699  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004  
TRADE TALKS WITH AUSTRALIA  
Mahajan Shri Y.G.

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to have talks with Australia to promote the trade of wool and woollen clothes:
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and`
- (c) the progress made in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) : In pursuance of the recommendation of the India-Australia Joint Commission, an India-Australia Joint Business Group on Natural Fibres and Textiles was set up in February 2000, inter-alia, to promote interaction between the businessmen and officials of the two countries with a view to promoting trade in natural fibres such as wool, silk, cotton, jute etc. and other related issues. The 3rd meeting of the Group was held in New Deihi in September 2003. The two sides had: in the mean time, got a Supply Chain Study conducted regarding movement of wool from the back of the sheep to the Australian port on the one side and from the Indian port to the end users such as exporters etc.