

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1753  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004  
GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE AND SERVICES  
Bansal Shri Pawan Kumar

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

- (a) the Government's perception about the implications of General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) for India,
- (b) whether the Government has pressed India's case for 'movement of natural persons' at W.T.O.;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) whether the developed countries pressing for various other issue at WTO are agreeable to opening up of labour markets themselves?

**Answer**

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

(a) Since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Agreements on Services (General Agreement on Trade in Services), India's services trade has grown considerably. From US \$ 6.8 billion exports in 1995, India's service exports have increased to US \$ 24.9 billion in 2003. India's share in world trade in Services is higher than its share in world trade in goods.

(b) to (d) One of India's objectives in the present negotiations is to ensure that trade in services improves through movement of natural persons. We have submitted comprehensive negotiating proposals in this regard. India's paper identifies key barriers to the movement of natural persons and suggests possible approaches members can adopt to achieve meaningful liberalization in this area.

As per the Framework Agreement adopted by the General Council in July, 2004, all member countries are to submit revised offers on services by May, 2005. The objective is to have a balanced outcome as part of Single Undertaking.