

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1816
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2006
MIGRATION OF PROFESSIONAL UNDER WTO
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has submitted proposals to the World Trade Organisation (W.T.O.) to ensure that regulations for migration of professionals among member countries are not unduly cumbersome and burdensome;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the issues raised by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the reaction of the W.T.O. thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) of the WTO covers only temporary movement of natural persons. Migration of professionals does not fall under the purview of GATS. However, in the area of temporary movement of natural persons, India has submitted negotiating proposals at the WTO for reduction of impediments in visa and immigration procedures etc., Economic Needs Tests, Work Permit Norms, non-recognition of qualifications etc. to facilitate the free movement of independent professionals and contractual service suppliers for the supply of services. India has also been negotiating for putting in place multilateral disciplines in domestic regulations, which are expected to facilitate the temporary movement of our service providers.

(c): The services negotiations under GATS at the WTO have not been concluded.