

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2791

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Jindal Shri Naveen;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

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

- (a) Whether the Government intends to enter into bilateral ties with other countries and form regional groupings to meet its trade target on the failure of Doha round WTO talks;
- (b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the countries with which the Government is likely to enter into bilateral ties;
- (c) Whether any assessment has been made on the effect of the present impasse at WTO talk on trade; and
- (d) If so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): India's engagement in Regional Trade Arrangements (RTAs) is not predicated upon the suspension of negotiations under the Doha Round in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and its trade policy continues to uphold a rule-based multilateral trading system, with complementary Regional Trade arrangements which serve as building blocks and which aim to achieve India's development imperatives.

(c) and (d): Implications for India's trade are assessed as required by the exigencies of the negotiations under the Doha Round. The effects of the suspension of negotiations on trade are not readily amenable to quantification without making assumptions on a number of parameters, including the period of delay and the likely nature of final convergences. In order to ensure that the WTO negotiating process and the outcome of the Doha Round embody the development imperatives of developing countries articulated in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the July 2004 Framework Agreement of 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of December 2005, India has intensified its outreach to other developing countries, like-minded Members of the WTO and the trade majors. The Government has also been engaged in consultations with stakeholders in order to evolve its position and strategy in the negotiations so as to safeguard India's interests and concerns across all the negotiating areas of the Doha Work Programme.