

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2427  
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2005  
WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION  
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

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

- (a) whether the W.T.O. is conspiring to divide the Developing countries so as to take decisions in favour of the developed countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any comparative study on the issue of hectare-wise agricultural subsidy available in the developed and the developing countries has been undertaken-
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated a strategy to safeguard the interests in the agriculture, small and medium enterprises (S.M.E.) sector; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): No Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): No Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e) & (f): Government have put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items and are committed to provide adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound tariffs, anti-dumping and safeguard actions as well as imposition of countervailing duties under specified circumstances as provided in various WTO Agreements. In so far as the agriculture sector is concerned, in the ongoing WTO negotiations, India along with other like minded developing countries in the G-33 alliance on Special Products (SPs) and the new Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) have secured agreement of all WTO Members to devise a new safeguard mechanism against import surges and price depressions in agricultural products for use by developing countries. Further, in the ongoing WTO negotiations under the Doha Work Programme, India has emphasised the need for ensuring that the final outcome of these negotiations fully reflects development dimension mandated at Doha.

Further, the Government has also taken measures to make indigenous industry competitive to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the opening of markets in other countries. These include cluster development, availability of institutional credit, assistance for adoption of modern management practices, use of Information Technology and a new scheme known as the ` Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme ` that has been formulated in the Union Budget of 2005-2006.