

India's export to Dollar dominated countries

482. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of India's export catering to Dollar dominated countries; and
- (b) the steps being taken by Government for diversification of export destinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, the percentage of India's exports catering to Dollar dominated countries was 87.6 per cent for the period April 1, 2007 to 31st March, 2008.

(b) India's foreign trade strategy is broadly based on focus-product and focus-country approach, thereby to promote 'Brand India' abroad. In order to diversify destinations of Indian exports, the Government has initiated various region specific integrated programmes like "Focus-LAC (Latin American and Caribbean Countries)", "Focus-AFRICA", "Focus-CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States)" etc. besides setting up of joint forum on trade and investment for increasing bilateral trade, Joint Commissions on trade, working out Comprehensive Economic Co-operation Agreement (CECA), Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Regional Free trade Agreement and Preferential Trade Agreement under SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade Area) for SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation) countries. In order to boost exports and to provide an environment conducive to trade, apart from government to government discussions, the government encourages business to business cooperation and participation of Indian exporters in international exhibitions and fairs. Economic diplomacy has equally been emphasized along with political diplomacy. This has resulted in exploration and improvement in exports to new and potential dynamic markets.

Doha round of trade negotiations

483. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) by when Government expects the conclusion of the Doha round of trade negotiations;
- (b) the critical issues that still remain unresolved and on which negotiations are held up; and
- (c) whether there is any possibility of these issues being resolved in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A mini-Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), attended by about 30 Trade Ministers, was held in Geneva in July, 2008. The objective of the meeting was to finalise modalities for Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA). Simultaneously, a meeting on Services ("Signalling" conference) was also held. The mini-Ministerial meeting, however, ended without an agreement on any issue.