

Implementation of new WTO Related Issues

187. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, has sought India's support during the coming new trade negotiations at Doha and also held discussions with Indian leaders in New Delhi on the need for trade liberalisation;

(b) whether Agenda for Doha WTO Ministerial meeting has been finalised indicating what role India is likely to play particularly over social and environmental dimension of the issues, reductions in trade barriers to developing countries as well as anti-dumping problems; and

(c) the details stages of implementation of issues concerning the earlier round of talks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) German Chancellor Mr. Gerhard Schroeder during his recent visit to India in October, 2001 held discussions with Indian leaders on various issues including on trade liberalisation. The German Chancellor in his discussions did not specifically seek India's support for the new trade negotiations at Doha. However at a seminar on Indo-German Economic Relations: Looking Ahead jointly organised by CII & FICCI at New Delhi, the German Chancellor stated, *inter alia*, that India's concerns on implementation are legitimate but this should not stop us from having the next round of negotiation.

(b) The Fourth Ministerial Conference of the WTO was held from November 9 to 14th, 2001 at Doha, Qatar. The Conference adopted the Ministerial Declaration on 14th November containing decisions on a number of issues. India actively participated in the Ministerial Conference and a significant number of issues of interest to India were included in the Ministerial Declaration. These include important issues like greater market access for agricultural products for developing countries through reduction of export subsidies and trade distorting domestic support given by developed countries, food security and rural development concerns of developing countries in agriculture negotiations, addressing the issue related to extension of protection of geographical indications to products other than wines and spirits, protection of traditional knowledge &

folklore, Public Health and access to medicines, clarification and improvement of disciplines relating to anti-dumping and subsidies and countervailing measures, special and differential treatment for developing countries and negotiations on market access for non-agricultural products aimed at elimination of non-tariff barriers and tariff peaks and tariff escalations. India strongly opposed the inclusion of non-trade social issues like labour within the ambit of WTO. The Declaration recognises that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the appropriate forum to address the issue of core labour standards. The Ministerial Conference decided to initiate negotiation only on few items of agenda of Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) while the remaining items have been referred to the study process until the Fifth Ministerial Conference. On the Singapore issues relating to Investment, Competition Policy, Trade Facilitation and Transparency in Government Procurement, the Ministerial Conference decided to launch negotiations after the 5th Session of Ministerial Conference only on the basis of decisions to be taken at that session by "Explicit Consensus".

(c) The Doha Ministerial Conference has adopted Decisions on a number of Implementation Issues and Concerns of the developing countries. The decisions which confer significant benefit to India include longer time frame of six months for compliance with new Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures, moratorium of two years on non-violation complaints under Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, investigating authorities to examine with special care for initiation of back to back antidumping investigation within 365 days, and members to offer cooperation and assistance including furnishing information about export value when the customs administration of an importing Member has reasonable grounds to doubt the truth or accuracy of the declared value. The outstanding implementation issues would be addressed as an integral part of the Work Programme of the WTO decided by the Doha Ministerial Conference.

Cultural Integration on North-East Zone

188. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) the main programme of the North-East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur (Nagaland);

(b) the measures taken up by this Centre for cultural integration of North-Eastern Region; and