

(b) whether we are seriously taking up this issue of subsidising bio-fuel or bio-diesel production in international forums like G-20, WTO and other similar organizations so that global food prices are not unduly increased and interests of underdeveloped and developing nations are not jeopardized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As per a report published by Oxfam International in June 2008, rich countries spent upto \$15 billion in the previous year supporting bio-fuels.

A substantial reduction in trade-distorting domestic support (subsidies) for agriculture is a key part of the mandate of the Doha Round of trade negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). India is a member of the G-20 group of developing countries working towards ambitious reforms of agriculture in developed countries with some flexibility for developing countries. India is working closely with the G-20 to keep up pressure on developed countries to seek effective cuts in their Overall Trade-distorting Domestic Support and to bring about effective disciplines in domestic support.

#### **Bilateral trade relations between India and China**

†2154. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

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

(a) whether India and China have recently evolved any mechanism to solve the issues related to bilateral trade between both the countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to deal with the effects of global recession by strengthening the bilateral trade and by bringing the diversity in exports between both the countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by Government to make normal trade relations between both the countries and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) India has several bilateral dialogue mechanisms with China including the Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science and Technology (JEG) at Ministerial level and Joint Working Group on Trade at Joint Secretary level. China has become the largest trading partner of India. Both India and China have regular interactions to discuss trade related issues. The Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Mr. Gao Hucheng visited India in October, 2008 and another Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Mr. Zhong Shan visited India in March, 2009. Commerce and Industry Minister also met Chinese Commerce Minister in 2009 and discussed trade related issues. Government is pursuing with Chinese side greater market access as also undertaking trade promotion activities for our products such as agricultural products, basmati rice and pharmaceuticals. Indian companies

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

have also participated in trade fairs in China to enhance awareness about Indian products. The first meeting of India-China Trade Remedies Cooperation Mechanism was held on 19th June, 2009 in Beijing. The purpose of the meeting was to have an exchange of views and to better understand each other's practices including investigation procedures.

**Meeting between India and US under Trade Policy Forum**

†2155. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently a meeting was held between India and USA under Trade Policy Forum;
- (b) if so, the suggestions given by USA to India in the said meeting;
- (c) India's reaction on these suggestions and the details of suggestions accepted;
- (d) whether India also gave some suggestions in the meeting; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the details of suggestions accepted by US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) India-US Trade Policy Forum meeting, co-chaired by Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry on Indian side and Ambassador Ron Kirk, United States Trade Representative on US side, was held at New Delhi on 26.10.2009. During the meeting both sides agreed to continue their dialogue to boost bilateral trade under five Focus Groups: Agriculture, Innovation and Creativity, Investment, Services and Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers.

**No consensus in meetings of WTO members**

†2156. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the meetings of WTO members during the last many years have been concluding without reaching any consensus;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the major issues discussed in these meetings; and
- (d) the details of the opinions expressed by developed and developing countries on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Doha Round of trade negotiations at the World Trade Organisation. (WTO), which began in 2001, is still underway.

- (b) In the WTO, decisions on any issue are taken on the basis of consensus amongst all its Members, which number 153 at present. The process of negotiation amongst 153 members is

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.