

Attitude of US to negotiations of Doha round

†254.SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has already expressed its displeasure on many occasions over the indifferent attitude of USA to expedite the negotiations of Doha round;

(b) whether the success of trade liberalisation is important for improving the world trade scenario;

(c) whether the last global financial crisis resulted in contracting the world trade;

(d) whether India has indicated that USA would extend its support for completion of the current round of negotiations;

(e) whether India is committed to Doha round of negotiations in order to liberalize the world trade;

(f) whether US administration has reacted coldly to this issue; and

(g) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (g) According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the volume of world trade is estimated to have fallen by around 12% in 2009 as a result of the global economic crisis. In the wake of the crisis, leaders of many countries including India, have, on several occasions, called for an early completion of the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations in the WTO. A successful completion of the Round is important not only to provide a stimulus to the global economy and strengthen the multilateral trading system, but also because it is a development round.

India is committed to a fair, equitable, rules-based multilateral trading system and in order to re-energise the negotiations, hosted an information Ministerial meeting in New Delhi in September, 2009. Negotiations resumed in the WTO soon after the Delhi meeting. However, while meetings have been taking place regularly, there has not been substantial progress on outstanding issues.

India has expressed concern about the slow progress of talks on several occasions, including the Seventh Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in November-December, 2009. While the Doha

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Round was not a main theme of the Ministerial Conference, there was a general acknowledgement that there had to be meaningful engagement by all Members, including the United States, if progress was to be made in the Round. The US negotiating team was announced recently, in early 2010.

At the Toronto Summit of the G-20 in June 2010, leaders reiterated their support for bringing the Doha Development Round to a balanced and ambitious conclusion as soon as possible, consistent with its mandate and based on the progress already made.

The US has taken the position that the creation of new trade flows and meaningful market opening, particularly in key emerging markets, namely, India, China and Brazil, is required to fulfill the development promise of Doha. They have stated that the key to Doha Round success will remain securing meaningful market access commitments in agriculture, Non-agricultural Market Access and services from these countries.

India and several other countries have consistently emphasised that the purpose of the negotiations could not be to meet unrealistic demands of one or more Members for new or additional market access, but to arrive at a balanced outcome in line with the development mandate of the Round.

Relief and rehabilitation for rain affected people of Assam

*255.SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that during the last six months, continuous rain in Assam has caused disaster in the matter of habitation and crops in the field;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has sent its report regarding damages and loss to the people of Assam; and

(c) if so, the details of the report sent by the State Government seeking relief and rehabilitation assistance for the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPALLAY RAMACHANDRAN) : Yes, Sir. Situation reports received from the Government of Assam indicate that due to heavy rains and floods 8 (eight) human lives have been lost. 3623 cattle heads perished,