

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Difference with US over poultry ban and penal duties on steel**

4496. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the us are set to begin to sort out their differences against each other at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) over poultry import ban imposed by India and penal duties on steel charged by the us;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has strengthened its argument in both cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The United States (US) and India had consultations under the Dispute Settlement Understanding of WTO in two different dispute matters, one concerning restrictions by India on import of certain agricultural products including poultry and the other concerning exorbitantly high Counter vailing duty (CVD) imposed by US on certain steel products originating from India. Since consultations could not resolve the issues, panels have been composed by WTO on the request of India and US to resolve these disputes.

India considers that its arguments in both the disputes are well within its rights and obligations under WTO agreement and have significant merits to defend.

**Failure of India and EU to clinch deal on BTIA**

4497. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the European Union (EU) failed to clinch a deal on the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) that has been in the works for six years as both sides sought more concessions for the deal to go through;

(b) if so, the details thereof;