

**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;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India has sought a good package on services including data secure status that will help Indian IT companies, especially smaller players source activity from European Union;

(d) if so, whether the European Union has agreed to the said proposal of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government of India is negotiating a bilateral Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with the European Union (EU) and negotiations were launched in Brussels on 28-29 June, 2007 based on the recommendations of the High Level Trade Group at the 7th India-EU Summit in October, 2006 in Helsinki. Negotiations across a number of tracks including Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Government Procurement, Customs Cooperation and Trade Facilitation, Dispute Settlement, Competition and Intellectual Property Rights etc. are underway. So far fifteen rounds of negotiations have been held.

(c) to (e) India has requested for a good package on Services including cross border flow of IT and IT enabled services, movement of Indian professionals and grant of data secure status to India. As is consistent with previous and established practice in ongoing negotiations, disclosures before finalisation of the Agreement may adversely affect India's position in the negotiations.

**Guidelines for supplier diversity for foreign companies**

4498. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has issued a set of guidelines to promote supplier diversity in supply chains for foreign companies having their manufacturing operations in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, in