

**Set back to India and other developing countries
at WTO Nairobi deal**

669. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether India agreeing to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) deal in Nairobi is a huge set back not only to India but to other developing countries as well;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) why a pact on public stockholding was not in place by now; and
- (d) by when it would be notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At the World Trade Organization (WTO), decisions are mostly taken by consensus. India and other developing countries opposed the closure of the Doha Round of trade negotiations and the introduction of new issues in the agenda of the WTO. The Nairobi Ministerial Declaration reflects the fact that there are differences in views in these areas. At the Nairobi Ministerial Conference, Ministerial Decisions were adopted on some agricultural issues and issues of importance to developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Nairobi Ministerial Decisions on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes and an agricultural Special Safeguard Mechanism are positive steps for developing countries as they recognize the need for outcomes in these areas and commit to the continuation of work on these issues in the WTO. One of the Decisions adopted extends the relevant provision to prevent 'evergreening' of patents in the pharmaceuticals sector. This would help in maintaining an affordable and accessible supply of generic medicines. These are all positive outcomes of the Ministerial Conference.

(c) and (d) The Decision taken at a Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Bali in December, 2013 and a subsequent Decision of the WTO General Council in November, 2013 set a deadline of 2017 (the 11th Ministerial Conference) for adoption of a permanent solution on the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes. The Ministerial Decision adopted at the Nairobi Ministerial Conference reaffirms this commitment to find a permanent solution and also mandates regular review of progress of the negotiations by the WTO General Council.