

**Appeal against WTO's verdict on solar energy equipments**

1149. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to appeal against the World Trade Organisation's verdict over its policy relating to solar energy equipments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether India had as part of its National Solar Mission, imposed a stipulation that solar cells and solar modules be locally sourced;

(c) whether US had filed a case against India at the WTO demanding a level playing field for Indian and foreign solar component manufactures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) There is no general stipulation under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) for compulsory sourcing of locally manufactured solar cells and modules. In order to promote and make Indian solar cells and modules manufacturing industry competitive, Government imposed the condition of procurement of locally manufactured solar cells and modules, only in a few of its programs under JNNSM.

The US filed a case against India under the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism, alleging that the Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) in Phase I (Batch I and II) and Phase II (Batch I) programs under JNNSM violates India's obligation, amongst others, the National Treatment provision under the WTO Agreement. The WTO panel found that India's DCR measures are inconsistent with WTO obligation.

India had filed an appeal against the WTO panel findings and the recommendation thereof. India's appeal primarily focuses on the need for a holistic approach to the issue of Government procurement, keeping in view the public policy objectives of ensuring energy security and achieving ecologically sustainable growth.

**Impact of trade agreements on 'Make in India' programme**

1150. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various bilateral and regional trade agreements concluded by UPA Government are proving to be detrimental to the success of 'Make in India' programme; and