

[16 August, 2004]

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provided to their farm sector largely by the developed countries are substantially reduced, their export subsidies eliminated, and market access opportunities for products of export interest to developing countries like India improve substantially. Moreover, consistent with the Doha mandate to negotiate on agriculture, any additional commitments, particularly in market access, by developing countries like India should serve to safeguard their food and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs. On 1st August, 2004, a *Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture* has been agreed to by consensus in the meeting of the General Council of the WTO. The Framework duly addresses India's concerns.

At the London Mini-Ministerial meeting, India was represented by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to WTO.

Trade between India and Mercosur

1187. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA. Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently India and Mercosur entered into an agreement to increase the trade between the two;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the items that can be exported to Mercosur; and
- (d) the present trade between the two in terms of dollars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Yes, Sir. India and Mercosur have entered into a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) on January 25, 2004.

(b) The PTA aims at expansion of bilateral trade by granting fixed tariff preferences to certain products as a first step towards the creation of a Free Trade Area between Mercosur and India. All the five annexes to the PTA, namely the two lists of products on which fixed tariff preferences are to be given, the texts on Rules of Origin, Safeguard Measures and Dispute Settlement are being negotiated at present.

(c) The products which can be exported to the Mercosur at reduced tariff are being negotiated at present.

(d) India's trade with the MERCOSUR countries during the last three years has been as follows:

(Figures in million US\$)

Year	Exports to MERCOSUR	Imports from MERCOSUR	Total Trade
2001-2002	626.49	765.74	1392.23
2002-2003	667.08	750.17	1417.25
2003-2004	566.96	849.69	1416.65

Agenda for WTO talks

1188. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have come out with an eight-point agenda asking the developing countries of the world to move away from the traditional pattern of WTO talks and bring about a level playing field in the global trade system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government expect that an agreement would be possible this year in WTO on Agriculture issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) At the interactive Thematic Session on "Assuring Development Gains from the International Trading System and Trade Negotiations" held on 16 June 2004, as part of the UNCTAD-XI Conference in Sao Paulo, the Indian representative *inter alia* suggested some principles that could be followed for assuring development gains from international trade, the trading system and trade negotiations. The principles referred to in the intervention included the following:

- (i) There should be genuine liberalisation by the major trading partners in pro-development areas and sectors in which developing countries have current and emerging comparative advantages;
- (ii) Trade rules should enable developing countries to get better access for their labour-intensive exports of goods and services and more scope for mobility for developing country labour in international trade;