

(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;

- (iii) Poverty-sensitive export sectors of developing countries should be promoted and supported, including through enhanced and predictable access in premium markets;
- (iv) Developing countries should be encouraged to capture better and higher returns from the exports of their commodities, manufactures and services. UNCTAD's thrust towards increasing developing country participation in dynamic and new sector should be encouraged;
- (v) The rules, both in terms of intergovernmental arrangements and operation of international markets, should ensure fairness and guarantee a level playing field for developing countries while taking into account the special needs and limited capacities, both structural and system-induced, *vis-a-vis* developed country partners;
- (vi) The trading system must accommodate the policy space imperative for delivery of a wide variety of public goods.

(c) The WTO General Council Decision of 1st August 2004 included the adoption of a Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture. This marks the first stage of the negotiating process. The Decision also extended the ongoing negotiations under the Doha Work Programme, including those relating to Agriculture, beyond 1 January 2005 specified in the Doha Ministerial Declaration leading to the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the WTO. It also agreed to hold the Sixth Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong China in December 2005. In view of this Decision, it is not likely that an agreement on agriculture issues would be reached during the current year 2004.

Export credit agencies

1189. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any move to bring export credit agencies under one roof to fund exporters from the emerging markets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?