

while at the same time calling for commitments from developing countries, in particular in market access, which were not consistent with developing country rural development, food security and livelihood security needs.

(c) The General Council of the WTO adopted on 1 August 2004 by consensus of all its Members, a Decision on the Doha Work Programme incorporating also a *Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture*. The agreed Framework duly addresses, without any conditions, the interests and concerns of India. It contains elements and principles based on which modalities will be negotiated for substantial overall reduction in trade-distorting domestic support using a tiered formula with Members with higher levels of such support making deeper cuts, along with separate disciplines on each of its sub-components. All forms of export subsidies will be eliminated by a credible end date, and substantial improvements in market access of developed countries will be achieved through a tiered formula with higher tariffs attracting deeper cuts. In respect of developing countries, the tariff reduction formula, number and treatment of sensitive products, and any expansion in tariff rate quotas has been made contingent upon their food security, livelihood security and rural development needs being met. Proportionality through lower tariff reduction commitments and tariff rate quota commitments by developing countries as compared to those by developed countries has been explicitly incorporated. An appropriate number of Special Products with flexibility in treatment based on criteria as agreed in the Framework of food security, livelihood security and rural development of developing countries have also been agreed along with institution of a new Special Safeguard Mechanism. Developing countries shall have the flexibility to provide marketing and transport subsidies on exports for a reasonable period beyond the elimination of all export subsidies, and those like India that allocate almost all *de minimis* support to subsistence and resource poor farmers shall be exempted from reducing such support. Special and differential treatment for developing countries, including longer implementation periods, shall be integral to all aspects of the negotiations.

Protection of Domestic Industry

1961. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to protect the domestic industry while signing the Free Trade Agreements at the Bangkok Summit held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) During the first BIMST-EC Summit held on 31st July, 2004 in Bangkok no Free Trade Agreement was signed by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of Tiger Prawn

1962. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand for tiger prawn abroad; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to train farmers on the methods of producing high quality prawn and tap the increasing demand for prawn especially in Japan, U.K. and the U.S. to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to promote the concept of sustainable shrimp farming among the farmers, the marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is regularly conducting training programmes, workshops, farmers meets, campaigns, etc. MPEDA has been engaged in an active campaign against the abuse of antibiotics in aquaculture and is popularizing innovative farming methods to ensure disease-free farming without the usage of banned drugs and chemicals. A separate scheme to increase shrimp production through aquaculture is also being implemented. Considering the huge prospects, MPEDA has established Regional and Sub-Regional Centres in various maritime States to promote shrimp culture.

Apart from the above, several steps are also being taken by the Government for boosting the exports of marine products, including prawn.