

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2287
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2022

12th MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF WTO

2287. SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for Government giving up on the permanent solution on Public Stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes at the 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO (MC12);
- (b) the reasons for not using all existing leverages like the e-Commerce moratorium and the World Food Programme (WFP) decision to push for a permanent solution;
- (c) how Government plans to pursue it and get an outcome now that there is no new deadline; and
- (d) the Indian deadline for this outcome?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

- (a) & (b): India has not given upon finding a permanent solution on Public Stockholding at the WTO. World Trade Organisation (WTO) is a Member-driven organisation and all decisions are taken based on consensus. India along with support of more than 80 developing countries including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) has been seeking an improvement over the existing Ministerial Decision on Public Stockholding for Food security purposes agreed at the Bali Ministerial Conference in 2013 and the decisions thereafter, at the WTO. Owing to Members' divergent positions at the WTO 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12), a final decision could not be arrived at on this issue.
- (c) & (d): India has been continuously engaging and working towards strengthening the coalition on this issue at the WTO. The latest proposal in this regard was submitted on 31 May, 2022 on behalf of the G-33 (a group of developing countries), the African Group and the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) Group. Based on earlier decisions at the WTO, India's public stockholding programmes continue to be protected by a mechanism of 'peace clause' which is available till a permanent solution is reached. India seeks permanent solution for public stockholding but at the same time ensuring that our interests in overall agriculture areas are protected.
