

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 21**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 04<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019**

**WTO ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

21. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that the affairs at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the global trading system have been witnessing challenges and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that for the first time the country is seeing a real challenge at WTO and the global trading system itself;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this regard;
- (d) whether some other countries are putting roadblocks and it is going to be a real issue and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is also talking with the European Union on the WTO issue and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a)to(d):The World Trade Organization and the global trading system are facing serious challenges in terms of unilateral measures and counter measures by some members, deadlock in important areas of negotiations and ongoing impasse in the appointment of members of the Appellate Body of WTO's dispute settlement mechanism. These challenges have necessitated a discussion among members for reforms in the WTO, with a view to plug the gaps in the WTO rules and procedures. India, as a strong supporter of the multilateral trading system,supports reforms of the WTO provided that the process is inclusive and addresses the developmental concerns of developing and least developing countries.

(e): Yes, Madam. There has been an impasse in the matter of selection of members of the Appellate Body Members of the WTO. The robust Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the WTO ensures that the rules of global trade agreed at the forum are not breached by members. India has been engaging with several WTO Members on the way forward at the WTO. India has recently co-sponsored a proposal with the European Union and other members on reform of the dispute settlement mechanism addressing various challenges. The proposal, inter alia, addresses various imperative issues of timelines, the appointment process of the Appellate Body members, their tenure and other conditions so that the Appellate Body and the Dispute Settlement Mechanism work more efficiently.

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