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Needed : A Just & Fair Dispute Settlement Mechanism

An efficient, speedy and impartial Dispute Settlement Mechanism is essential for building up an equitable, effective and predictable multilateral trading system. Dispute settlement facilitates legal certainty and acts as an incentive for decision makers to move resources from protective to productive uses. In fact, the Marrakesh Declaration of 1994 highlights the 'stronger and clearer legal framework' adopted for the conduct of international trade including 'a more effective and reliable dispute settlement mechanism'. It was expected that the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the WTO would help the weaker trading partners in enforcing the rights and obligations under the various WTO Agreements. To address some of the issues, a Round Table on the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the WTO was jointly organised by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and National Law School, Bangalore, on 22 February, 2001. The Round Table, inaugurated by the Commerce & Industry Minister, Mr. Murasoli Maran was addressed, among others, by Prabir Sengupta, Commerce Secretary; Nripendra Misra, Special Secretary; Prof. F. Roessler, an eminent authority in this field and by various other academicians, legal and trade policy experts as well as a representative of the WTO Secretariat.

(Excerpts below are from the speech of the Commerce & Industry Minister, at the Round Table Conference on "WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism").

An effective and impartial dispute settlement provision is a key feature in any international covenant. To quote the former Director General of WTO: ".....thus far WTO's best achievement is the dispute settlement body, which is working, and which is really the heart of the multilateral trading system and the system is being used by developed countries, not just developing countries".

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India has been an active participant in the Dispute Settlement Mechanism, having been involved as a complainant, defendant or as third party in 15 cases where Panels have been established. However, our continued active participation is also crucially dependent on how we are able to develop local legal expertise in WTO law. While assistance of foreign lawyers has to be sought at times, we need to collectively work to improve our in-house expertise. The WTO Chair in the Bangalore Law School opened by us marks a good beginning and I hope that this Round Table and such similar programmes would contribute to greater awareness and specialisation.

The dispute settlement system has certainly become more complex in contrast to the first dispute under GATT in 1948 when the dispute settlement report stated **in its entirety** the following:

"In response to a request for an interpretation of the phrase: charges of any kind in paragraph 1 of Article I with respect of consular taxes, the Chairman ruled that such taxes were covered by the phrase: charges of any kind".

This succinct finding in the first dispute needs to be contrasted with the current reports of WTO panels and Appellate Body which have become extremely legalistic and expensive. They have also become a paradise for lawyers making life difficult for Third World countries.

One of the earliest decisions of the Dispute Settlement Body went against the USA. This seemed to convey a feeling at that time that the system was immune from influence by the

major trading countries. However, over the past six years, for multiplicity of reasons, the faith in the Dispute Settlement Mechanism, particularly among developing countries, seems to be undergoing a change.

A major problem confronting the dispute settlement mechanism is that the Panels and the Appellate Body seems to be overstepping their respective mandate and straying into the area of "authoritative interpretation" or "amendment" which is reserved for the members alone as per Articles IX and X of the WTO Agreement.

Through a clever use of innovative interpretations of the provisions of GATT and the Agreement on Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures, the Dispute Settlement System of the WTO has gone much beyond the intent of membership in respect of trade-environment linkages by upholding some unilateral trade measures. The examples are: Shrimps, Turtle and the EC-Hormones cases.

As the interface between the trade and environment has been taken care of by the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, such actions are likely to help protectionism by the developed countries. Therefore, **Third World countries are worried that what they may keep out through the front-door, may find its way into the WTO through the backdoor. This is a dangerous trend.**

The manner in which the WTO panels and the Appellate Body have approached the issue of amicus curiae briefs is another issue of concern. In the recent Asbestos dispute, the Appellate Body initiative to seek and accept

unsolicited briefs **amounts to changing the inter-governmental character of the WTO.** Furthermore, this is not a procedural issue, as viewed by the Appellate Body **but a substantial matter on which only the WTO membership should have competence to take a decision.** This is also likely to harm developing countries much more as they lack resourceful and effective NGOs who could actively participate. That the Appellate Body chose to do so even though this issue was under discussion amongst the WTO membership with a number of countries including India strongly opposed to this idea makes it even more disturbing.

Another disturbing trend is the reference by Panels to matters on which the WTO members do not have access. In the Canada-EU Dispute on pharmaceutical patents and generic products, the Panel Report quotes from an "**Informal GATT Secretariat note**" to which WTO Members do not have access. Even in the earlier disputes, Secretariat Notes and informal texts have been used as "**negotiating history**" in the panel process. This militates against the transparency of the panel process. It is very important that there is an arms length relationship between the Secretariat servicing the panel and the rest of the WTO Secretariat. Furthermore, any material provided by the Secretariat to the panel should be simultaneously made available to the parties to the dispute who

could express their views to the panel.

India stands for a rule-based multilateral trading system which needs to be just and fair. Yes, **it should be rule-oriented and not power-oriented.**

The WTO contains the single-most important set of rules governing international trade; **it is the only international body which has "the rule of law".**

This power makes it useful; but because of that reason, some countries of the industrialised world put pressure to bring in non-trade related issues— nay, all issues under the sun - within the discipline of WTO. **I am afraid, the weak shoulders of the developing countries would not bear this heavy burden, with the result, such a process would overload the multilateral organisation and would create Seattles after Seattles, which may endanger the system.**

Moreover, this goes against the letter and spirit of Article 23 of DSU. All of us agree that we must do everything possible to strengthen rather than weaken the system.

In conclusion, it is in the interest of the Multilateral Trading System that the Dispute Settlement Mechanism not only is, but is also perceived to be so by all Members as an effective and just system. We cannot afford to let this important advantage of WTO slip by.



(Excerpted from the speech of Murasoli Maran, Commerce & Industry Minister, at the Round Table Conference on "WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism," organised jointly by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and the Bangalore Law School, in New Delhi on 22 February, 2001)

WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism — How it works

"No review of the achievements of the WTO would be complete without mentioning the Dispute Settlement system, in many ways the central pillar of the multilateral trading system and the WTO's most individual contribution to the stability of the global economy. The new WTO system is at once stronger, more automatic and more credible than its GATT predecessor. This is reflected in the increased diversity of countries using it and in the tendency to resolve cases 'out of court' before they get to the final decision - 19 out of 71 cases so far. The system is working as intended - as a means above all for conciliation and for encouraging resolution of disputes, rather than just for making judgements. By reducing the scope for unilateral actions, it is also an important guarantee of fair trade for [less powerful countries]."

Renato Ruggiero
17 April, 1997

Without a means of settling disputes, the rules-based system would be worthless because the rules could not be enforced. The WTO's procedure underscores the rule of law, and it makes the trading system more secure and predictable. The system is based on clearly-defined rules, with

timetables for completing a case. First rulings are made by a panel and endorsed (or rejected) by the WTO's full membership. Appeals based on points of law are possible.

However, the point is not to make rulings. The priority is to settle disputes, through consultations if possible. By mid-April 1999, 30 out of 170 cases had been settled "out of court", without going through the full panel process.

Principles

WTO members have agreed that if they believe fellow-members are violating trade rules, they will use the multilateral system of settling disputes instead of taking action unilaterally. That means abiding by the agreed procedures, and respecting judgements.

What is this agreement called? Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes.

Typically, a dispute arises when one country adopts a trade policy measure or takes some action that one or more fellow-WTO members considers to be breaking the WTO agreements, or to be a failure to live up to obligations. A third group of countries can declare that they have an interest in the case and

enjoy some rights.

A procedure of settling disputes existed under the old GATT, but it had no fixed timetables, rulings were easier to block, and many cases dragged on for a long time inconclusively. The Uruguay Round agreement introduced a more structured process with more clearly defined stages in the procedure. It introduced greater discipline for the length of time a case should take to be settled, with flexible deadlines set in various stages of the procedure. The agreement emphasizes that prompt settlement is essential if the WTO is to function effectively. It sets out in considerable detail the procedures and the timetable to be followed in resolving disputes. If a case runs its full course to a first ruling, it should not normally take more than about one year - 15 months if the case is appealed. The agreement time limits are flexible, and if the case is considered urgent (e.g. if perishable goods are involved), then the case should take three months less.

The Uruguay Round agreement also made it impossible for the country losing a case to block the adoption of the ruling. Under the previous GATT procedure, rulings could only be adopted by

More cases can be good news

If the courts find themselves handling an increasing number of criminal case, does that mean law and order is breaking down? Not necessarily. Sometimes it means that people have more faith in the courts and the rule of law. They are turning to the courts instead of taking the law into their own hands.

For the most part, that is what is happening in the WTO. No one likes to see countries quarrel. But if there are going to be trade disputes anyway, it is healthier that the cases are handled according to internationally agreed rules. There are strong grounds for arguing that the increasing number of disputes is simply the result of expanding world trade and the stricter rules negotiated in the Uruguay Round; and that the fact that more are coming to the WTO reflects a growing faith in the system.

consensus, meaning that a single objection could block the ruling. Now, rulings are automatically adopted unless there is a consensus to reject a ruling - any country wanting to block a ruling has to persuade all other WTO members (including its adversary in the case) to share its view.

Although much of the procedure does resemble a court or tribunal, the preferred solution is for the countries concerned to discuss their problems and settle the dispute by themselves. The first stage is therefore consultations between the governments concerned, and even when the case has progressed to other stages. Consultation and mediation are still always possible.

How are disputed settled?

Settling disputes is the responsibility of the Dispute Settlement Body (the General Council in another guise). The Dispute Settlement Body has the sole authority to establish "panels" of experts to consider the case, and to accept or reject the panels' findings or the results of an appeal. It monitors the implementation of the rulings and recommendations, and has the power to authorise retaliation when a country does not comply with a ruling.

First stage : consultation (up to **60 days**). Before taking any other actions the countries in dispute

have to talk to each other to see if they can settle their differences by themselves. If that fails, they can also ask the WTO Director General to mediate or try to help in other way.

Second stage : the panel (up to 45 days for a panel to be appointed, plus 6 months for the panel to conclude). If consultations fail, the complaining country can ask for a panel to be appointed. The country "in the dock" can block the creation of a panel once, but when the Dispute Settlement Body meets for a second time, the appointment can no longer be blocked (unless there is a consensus against appointing the panel).

Officially, the panel is helping the Dispute Settlement Body make rulings or recommendations. But because the panel's report can only be rejected by consensus in the Dispute Settlement Body, its conclusions are difficult to overturn. The panel's findings have to be based on the agreements cited.

The panel's final report should normally be given to the parties to the dispute within six months. In cases of urgency, including those concerning perishable goods, the deadline is shortened to three months.

The agreement describes in some detail how the panels are to work. The main stages are :

● **Before the first hearing** : each side in the dispute presents its case in writing to the panel.

● **First hearing** : the case for the complaining country and defence : the complaining country (or countries), the responding country and those that have announced they have an interest in the dispute, make their case at the panel's first hearing.

Panels

Panels are like tribunals. But unlike in a normal tribunal, the panelists are usually chosen in consultation with the countries in dispute. Only if the two sides cannot agree does the WTO director general appoint them. This only happens rarely.

Panels consist of three (occasionally five) experts from different countries who examine the evidence and decide who is right and who is wrong. The panel's report is passed to the Dispute Settlement Body, which can only reject the report by consensus.

Panelists for each case can be chosen from a permanent list of well-qualified candidates, or from elsewhere. They serve in their individual capacities. They cannot receive instructions from any government.

● **Rebuttals** : the countries involved submit written rebuttals and present oral arguments at the panel's second meeting.

HOW LONG TO SETTLE A DISPUTE?

These approximate periods for each stage of a dispute settlement procedure are target figures - the agreement is flexible. In addition, the countries can settle their dispute themselves at any stage. Totals are also approximate.

60 days 45 days 6 months 3 Weeks 60 days	Consultations, mediation, etc. Panel set-up and panelists appointment Final panel report to parties Final panel report to WTO members Dispute Settlement Body adopts report (if no appeal)
Total = 1 year	(without appeal)
60-90 days 30 days	Appeals report Dispute Settlement Body adopts appeals report
Total = 1 y 3m	(with appeal)

- **Experts** : If one side raises scientific or other technical matters, the panel may consult experts or appoint an expert review group to prepare an advisory report.

- **First draft** : the panel submits the descriptive (factual and argument) sections of its report to the two sides, giving them two weeks to comment. This report does not include findings and conclusions.

- **Interim report** : The panel then submits an interim report, including its findings and conclusions, to the two sides, giving them one week to ask for a review.

- **Review** : The period of review must not exceed two weeks. During that time, the panel may hold additional meetings with the two sides.

- **Final report** : A final report is submitted to the two sides and three weeks later, it is circulated to all WTO members. If the panel decides that the disputed trade measure does break a WTO agreement or an obligation, it recommends that the measure be made to conform with WTO rules. The panel may suggest how this could be done.

The report becomes a ruling : The report becomes the Dispute Settlement Body's ruling or recommendation within 60 days unless a consensus rejects it. Both sides can appeal the report (and in some cases both sides do).

Appeals

Either side can appeal a panel's ruling. Sometimes both sides do so. Appeals have to be based on points of law such as legal interpretation - they cannot reexamine existing evidence or examine new evidence.

Each appeal is heard by three members of a permanent seven-member Appellate Body set-up by the Dispute Settlement Body and broadly representing the range of WTO membership. Members of the Appellate Body have four-year terms. They have to be individuals with recognised standing in the field of law and international trade, not affiliated with any government.

The appeal can uphold, modify or reverse the panel's legal findings and conclusions. Normally appeals should not last more than 60 days, with an absolute maximum of 90 days.

The Dispute settlement Body has to accept or reject the appeals report within 30 days- and rejection is only possible by consensus.

The case has been decided: what next ?

Go directly to jail. Do not pass Go, Do not collect... Well, not exactly. But the sentiments apply. If a country has done something wrong, it should swiftly correct its fault. And if it continues to break an agreement, it should offer compensation or suffer suitable penalty that has some bite.

Even once the case has been decided, there is more to do before trade sanctions (the conventional form of penalty) are imposed. The priority at this stage is for the losing "defendant" to bring its policy into line with the ruling or recommendations. The dispute settlement agreement stresses that "Prompt compliance with recommendations or rulings of the DSB [Dispute Settlement Body] is essential in order to ensure effective resolution of disputes to the benefit of all Members".

If the country that is the target of the complaint loses, it must follow

the recommendations of the panel report or the appeals report. It must state its intention to do so at a Dispute Settlement Body meeting held within 30 days of the report's adoption. If complying with the recommendation immediately proves impractical, the member will be given a "reasonable period of time" to do so. If it fails to act within this period, it has to enter into negotiations with the complaining country (or countries) in order to determine mutually-acceptable compensation - for instance, tariff reduction in areas of particular interest to the complaining side.

If after 20 days, no satisfactory compensation is agreed, the complaining side may ask the Dispute Settlement Body for permission to impose limited trade sanctions ("suspend concessions or obligations") against the other side. The Dispute settlement Body must grant this authorisation within 30 days of the expiry of the "reasonable period of time" unless there is a consensus against the request.

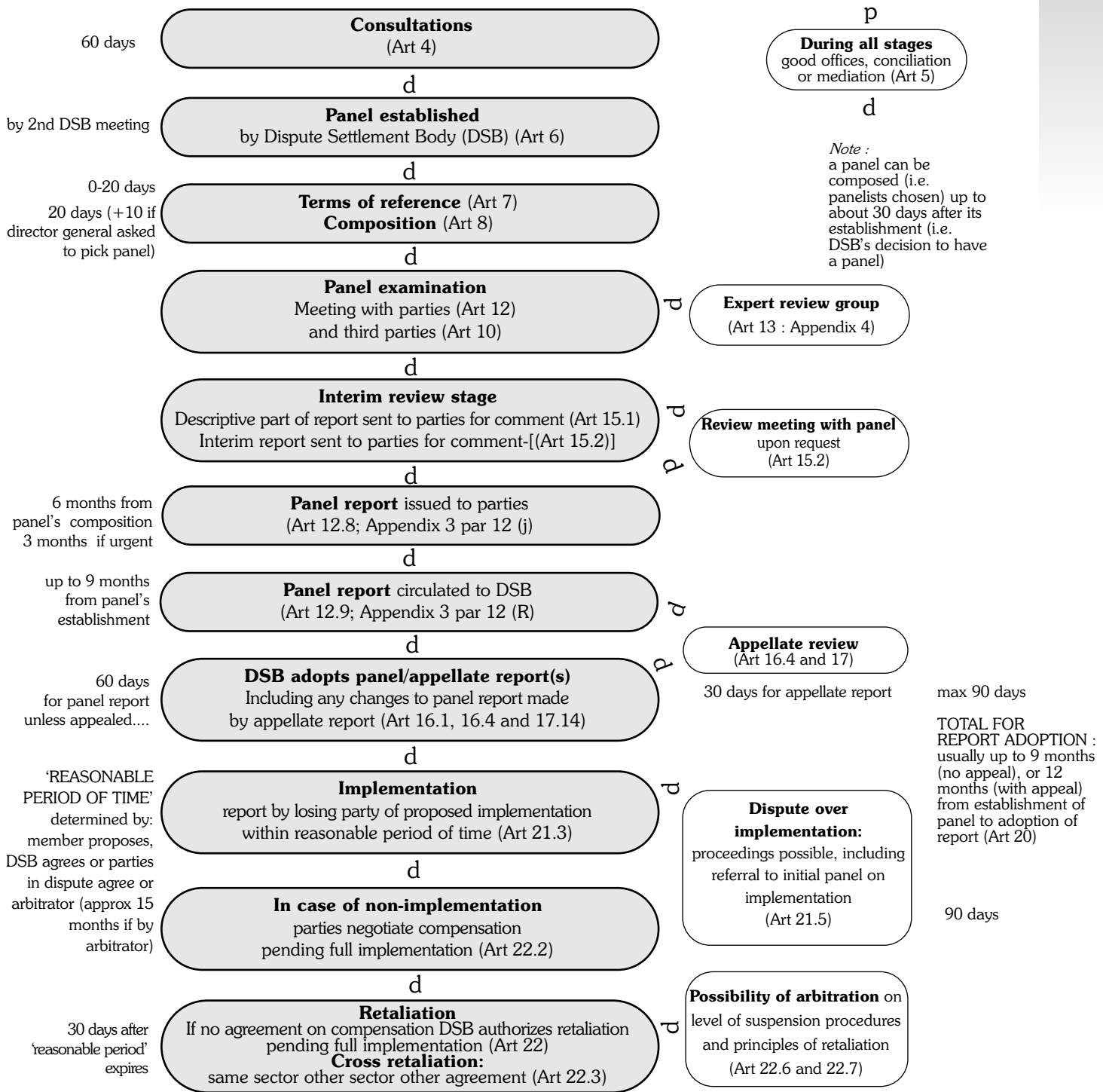
In principle, the sanctions should be imposed in the same sector as the dispute. If this is not practical or if it would not be effective, the sanction can be imposed in a different sector of the same agreement. In turn, if this is not effective or practicable and if the circumstances are serious enough, the action can be taken under another agreement. The objective is to minimize the chances of actions spilling over into unrelated sectors while at the same time allowing the actions to be effective.

In any case, the Dispute Settlement Body monitors how adopted rulings are implemented. Any outstanding case remains on its agenda until the issue is resolved.

2. The panel process

The various stages a dispute can go through in the WTO. At all stages, countries in dispute are encouraged to consult each other in order to settle 'out of court'. At all stages, WTO director general is available to offer his good offices, to mediate or to help achieve a conciliation.

Note : Some specified times are maximums, some are minimum, some binding, some not



(Source : Trading into Future - WTO, Geneva 2nd edition revised April, 1999)

Status of Disputes in Dispute Settlement Body of WTO between India and Other Countries - An Update

Sl. No.	Subject of the Disputes	Complainant	Against	Status
1.	India's quantitative restrictions on import on agricultural, textile and industrial products	EC	India	Amicably Settled
2.	-do-	Australia	India	-do-
3.	-do-	Canada	India	-do-
4.	-do-	New Zealand	India	-do-
5.	-do-	Switzerland	India	-do-
6.	-do-	USA	India	Lost
7.	Alleged absence in India of patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products, and the absence of formal systems that permit the filing of patent	EC	India	Lost
8.	Restrictions on export of products including raw hides and skins.	EC	India	Continuing
9.	Quantitative restrictions on imports of textile and clothing products	India	Turkey	Won
10.	Patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products	USA	India	Lost
11.	Ban on importation of shrimp and shrimp products from these countries imposed by the US	India	USA	Won
12.	Measures affecting imports of Women's and girl's wool coats	India	USA	Won
13.	Transitional safeguard measures affecting imports of woven wool shirts and blouses	India	USA	Won
14.	Import regime on Automobiles	India	Poland	Amicably Settled
15.	Application of Cumulative Recovery System (CRS) for India's exports of rice	India	EC	Settled

16.	Anti-Dumping actions on unbleached cotton fabrics (UCF)	India	EC duty	EC did not continue the anti-dumping India is not pursuing
17.	Anti-Dumping proceedings against import of Cotton type Bed-linen.	India	EC	Won
18.	Concerning certain measures affecting the Automotive sector - Auto policy	EC	India	Continuing
19.	Import restrictions maintained by India for reasons other than Articles XVIII:B of GATT 1994	EC	India	Continuing
20.	A series of customs duties increases implemented by Indian authorities	EC	India	Continuing
21.	Anti-dumping duties imposed by South African Authorities on imports of antibiotics from India	India	South Africa	Continuing
22.	Concerning certain measures affecting the Automotive sector - Auto policy	USA	India	Continuing
23.	Anti-dumping duties imposed by US on CTL Steel Plate imports from India	India	US	Continuing
24.	US legislation on dumping and subsidy offset (Byrd Amendment)	India and 8 other countries	US	Continuing

In respect of Sl. No. 23 India has raised a dispute with USA on anti-dumping duties imposed on CTL imports. Consultations have been held with US on 21st November 2000.

Out of 24 disputes* to which India has been a party, seven have been amicably settled; in five cases India has won; in three cases India has lost; one case not pursued as EC did not continue with the anti-dumping action and eight disputes are continuing at different stages.



* as on 22 March, 2001

Monthly Report on important multilateral trade-related events and developments in the WTO for the month of February, 2001

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Fourth Ministerial Conference of the WTO has been scheduled to be held during 9-13 November 2001 in Doha, Qatar.**
- In the fifth Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture India's negotiating proposals in the areas of Market Access, Domestic Support, Export Competition and Food Security, as approved by the Cabinet, were discussed. The Indian proposals were well received. The discussion on Indian proposals is likely to continue on 22.3.2001.
- On QR dispute, India presented its status report on the implementation of rulings and recommendations of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in the DSB's meeting on 1.2.2001.
- On the issue of emergency safeguard measures (ESM) under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), the Chairman of the Working Party on GATS Rules in its informal meeting on 1.2.2001 proposed a two-phased approach. In the first phase up to October 2001, reaching a preliminary conclusion on the issue of feasibility of having an ESM and in the second phase up to the end of February 2002, arriving at a draft text of an Agreement on ESM, without prejudice to the Members' position on the feasibility and desirability issue. The next formal meeting of the Working Party is scheduled for 21 March 2001.
- The Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) in a formal meeting on 9.2.2001 took a decision on procedural matters for consideration of implementation issues referred to it. It was decided that Initial papers would be submitted by 8 March 2001. They will be considered in a meeting on 2.4.2001.
- Regarding safeguard measures on Methylene Chloride the Consultations with EC were held on 22nd February 2001 under Article 12.3 of the Agreement on Safeguards.
- Regarding the US legislation "Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 (Byrd Amendment)," India and the other co-complainant countries held consultations with the USA under the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organisation on 6th February 2001. This Act proposes to distribute amongst the affected domestic producers of the USA, the anti-dumping and countervailing duties imposed and collected on imports from other countries.
- **The Appellate Body of WTO in its report dated 1.3.2001 has upheld the claims made by India while rejecting the claims made by European Commission (EC) in the Bedlinen dispute with EU.** The practical implication of the ruling of the Appellate Body is that it clarifies some aspects of the methodology relating to calculation of dumping margin and would prevent inflated dumping margins based on zeroing.
- The DG/WTO convened a meeting with about 20 Ambassadors on 14.2.2001 to discuss the work programme. The general consensus of the meeting was that the Chairman, General Council, should hold consultations on the preparatory process for the next Ministerial Conference and April 2001 will be an appropriate time to launch the preparatory process. He also hinted that the process for preparing for the Ministerial Conference need not necessarily be viewed as a process for preparing for a new round.

(Source: Trade Policy Division, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, incorporating inputs from PMI/Geneva)

Parliament Briefs

MANDATED NEGOTIATIONS IN WTO

India has been proposing suitable reforms in the multilateral trading system during the mandated negotiations and mandated reviews as have been provided in the various WTO agreements, so as to subserve India's interests. **The mandated negotiations on Agriculture and Services have commenced in the year 2000. Under the ongoing negotiation on Agriculture, India has submitted its proposals** which aim to protect its food and livelihood security by having flexibility for domestic policy measures taken for poverty alleviation, rural development, rural employment and diversification of agriculture while also aiming to create necessary safeguards for protecting domestic producers from surge in imports or from steep fall in import prices. The proposals also aim to facilitate agricultural exports by seeking substantial reductions in tariffs and substantial reductions in trade distorting domestic support as well as elimination of the export subsidies in the developed countries.

Under the mandated negotiations on Services, India's main objective is to seek substantial further liberalisation in the movement of natural persons especially professionals and skilled personnel under Mode 4 of the Services and a proposal in this regard has already been submitted in WTO by India. Under the mandated negotiation and mandated reviews under the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) agreement, India's main objective is to seek a higher level of protection as already provided to wines and spirits to the geographical indications in other products.

Besides, India has been in the forefront in demanding that implementation related concerns of the developing countries regarding the WTO agreements should be resolved satisfactorily. The implementation concerns broadly relate to the inequities and imbalances in the existing WTO agreements, non-realisation of anticipated benefits from the WTO Agreements and the non-operational and non-binding nature of most of the Special and Differential (S&D) provisions in favour of developing countries. The implementation related concerns were highlighted by India through its proposals which were cosponsored by 11 other like-minded group of countries in the preparatory process leading to the Seattle Ministerial Conference in November 1999. The General Council of WTO in its May 2000 resolution has set up a work programme in WTO to address these implementation related concerns of the developing countries.

CONSULTATIONS WITH FARMERS ON AGRICULTURE

Need for liberalisation and suitable disciplines in the world trade in agriculture was felt due to the prevalence of high trade distorting subsidies coupled with high tariffs and plethora of non-tariff barriers being practised by the developed countries which led to serious distortions in the process of agricultural commodities and denial of market access to developing countries like India.

As mandated under Article 20 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, negotiations for further progressive liberalisation to establish a fair and market oriented agricultural trading system have begun in the year 2000. Government has held wide ranging consultations with the State Governments, farmers organisations, political parties, various autonomous organisations, agriculture universities and eminent agroeconomists before drawing up India's negotiating proposals in the areas of market access, domestic support, export competition and food security. During these consultations, there was a unanimous view that India in its negotiating proposals must highlight its food security and livelihood concerns while also seeking increased market access for its agricultural export especially in the markets of the developed countries. Four regional level conferences were also held to sensitise State Governments and farmers in this regard as well as to seek their inputs for finalising the India's negotiating proposals for the mandated negotiations in agriculture.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Cashew Export Promotion Council, Spices Board, and Export Inspection Council etc. have been engaged in sensitising exporters about the requirements of international trade in agriculture including the Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary standards to be met. The National Agriculture Policy also provides for promotion of use of science and technology through a regular interface between Science and Technology institutions and the domestic producers to make Indian agriculture sector globally competitive.

(Written replies given by Mr. Omar Abdullah, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, in Lok Sabha on 16 March, 2001)

Schedule of Meetings at the WTO/Geneva* April 2001

2 & 3-4-2001	COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
2 & 3 - 4-2001	Textiles Monitoring Body
4- - 4 - 2001	Committee on Import Licensing
4 & 5 - 4- 2001	COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
4 - 4 - 2001	Textiles Monitoring Body
5 - 4 - 2001	DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY
6 - 4 - 2001	COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
10 - 4 - 2001	Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products
11 - 4 - 2001	Committee on Customs Valuation
13 - 4 - 2001	GOOD FRIDAY (WTO non-working day)
16 - 4 - 2001	EASTER MONDAY (WTO non-working day)
18 - 4 - 2001	COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS
23 & 24 - 4 - 2001	Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices - Ad-hoc Group on Implementation
24 - 4 - 2001	Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries
25 - 4 - 2001	Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices - Informal Group on Anti-Circumvention
26 & 27 - 4 - 2001	Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices
30 - 4 - 2001	Committee on Safeguards

(*Source : WTO / Geneva as on March 31, 2001)

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