

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

**WT/TPR/D/18**

9 April 1998

(98-1472)

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## Trade Policy Review Body

### TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

#### REVIEW OF INDIA

##### Communication from the Discussants

In pursuance of Annex 3, paragraph C (iv) of the WTO Agreement, the following are outlines of the main points to be raised by the discussants, H.E. Ambassador Chak Mun See (Singapore) and Mr. Ric Wells (Australia) at the Trade Policy Review of India on 16-17 April 1998.

It is recalled that the discussants act in their personal capacity.

(a) Ambassador Chak Mun See

- Main features of India's economic development since 1991
- Share of trade in GDP: limited use of trade as an engine of growth
- Trade policy reforms of the 1990s: progress, and steps still to be achieved; effects of shift towards export-orientation
- Complexity of import policy structure, and need for further simplification
- Infrastructural constraints to trade development: potential role of private sector
- Investment policy: role of foreign investment in substituting for, or complementing trade; linkage between investment conditions and export requirements

(b) Mr. Ric Wells

- "Pent-up" demand for imports: impact of tariff and import licensing policies and need for further liberalization
  - Sectoral issues:
    - agriculture: effects of policy on poverty alleviation, food security, and development
    - manufacturing: changes in import/export policies and their effects
    - services: unevenness of development, role of market opening in specific areas
  - Intellectual property rights as an element in India's modern industrial development: uneven development of legislation in different areas
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Note: This communication is subject to restricted circulation and press embargo until the end of the Meeting of the Trade Policy Review Body on India.