

Trade is important for India

“If Bali fails to deliver, then it will weaken the multilateralism and the credibility of WTO”, says Naina Lal Kidwai

New Delhi, 29 November 2013: “We are happy to see the breakthrough in the trade facilitation agreement and hope the remaining gaps in the area of food security will be closed so that we could have a trade deal in the Bali Ministerial”, **FICCI President Ms Naina Lal Kidwai** said in a statement today. Highlighting the critical significance of food security, Ms Kidwai pointed out that there is need for adequate flexibility for developing countries like India in building public stocks for food security purposes and to prevent volatility in food price. There is merit in the argument for revision in the “reference price” that is used for computation of trade-distorting subsidies in view of the inflation, FICCI statement pointed out. FICCI President has also welcomed India’s decision to increase the product coverage for the duty-free, quota-free imports from LDCs.

FICCI President reiterated the importance of successfully concluding a Bali package consisting of trade facilitation and agriculture including public stockholding for food security purposes. Indian business does not want to miss the opportunity to have an agreement that will lead to reduction in overall trading costs by 10 to 15 per cent. “If Bali fails to deliver, then it will weaken the multilateralism and the credibility of WTO as an institution. Failure in Bali would be very disappointing particularly in view of the mega-FTAs currently under talks, that will imply a huge share of world trade conducted on preferential basis which may not be to the advantage of India”, observed Ms Kidwai.

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