

WTO Agreement on Agriculture tilted against developing countries, says Goyal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

THE AGREEMENT on Agriculture at the WTO was riddled with deep imbalances, which favour the developed countries and have tilted the rules against many developing countries, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

He said that historical asymmetries and imbalances must be corrected to ensure a rule-based, fair and equitable order.

Goyal said this while addressing the G-33 Virtual Informal Ministerial Meeting.

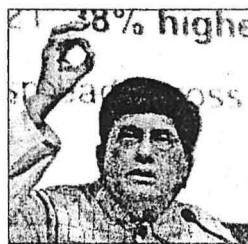
It was organised by Indonesia on Thursday to discuss the agricultural priority issues of G-33 and the way forward for the 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), scheduled to be held from November 30 to December 3 this year, an official statement said on Friday.

Of a total of 47 G-33 members, representatives from 21 countries, including India, took the floor to make the brief intervention.

In his intervention, Goyal said G-33 must strive for positive outcomes on a permanent solution to public stockholding for food security purposes, which is of utmost importance, finalisation of a special safeguard mechanism (SSM) quickly and a balanced outcome on domestic support.

He urged the members to work collectively to retain the cohesion of the G-33 coalition and strengthen it further by reaching out to other like-minded developing groups to secure their support for a fair, balanced and development-centric outcome on agriculture at the 12th conference in Geneva.

Goyal attends meeting of G-20 Sherpas



File

New Delhi: A two-day virtual meeting of G-20 Sherpas, attended by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, deliberated on the draft 'Rome Declaration' ahead of the annual summit of the powerful grouping in the Italian city next month. Goyal was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 earlier this month.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the meeting deliberated on recovery from the pandemic, sustainable development and issues relating to the environment, climate and energy.

It was Goyal's first G20 meeting since his appointment as the Sherpa. **PTI**

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the G-33 joint ministerial statement reaffirming commitment for expeditious resolution of the WTO's mandated issues in agriculture.

The minister "highlighted that Agreement on Agriculture at the WTO was riddled with deep imbalances, which favour the developed countries and have tilted the rules against many developing countries", the statement said.