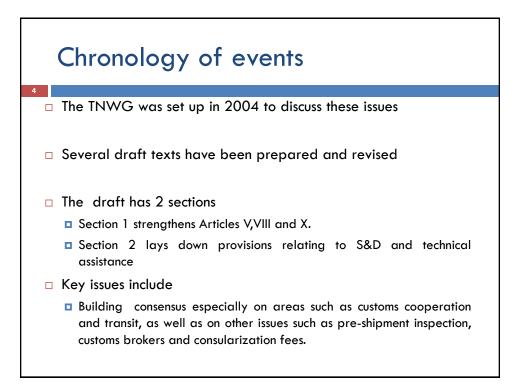


Chronology of events

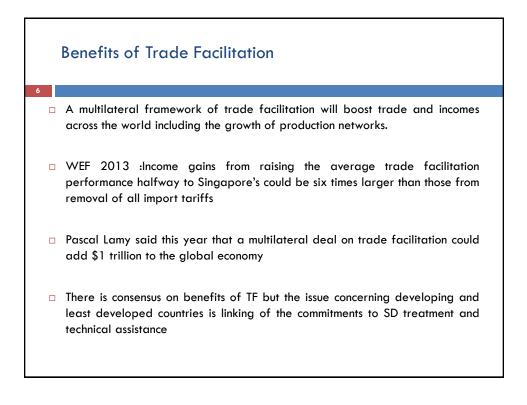
□ The negotiations aimed to:

- Clarify and improve GATT Article V (Freedom of Transit), Article VIII (Fees and Formalities, and Article X (Publication and Administration of Trade Regulations)
- Enhance technical assistance and support for capacity building
- Provisions for effective cooperation between customs and other TF authorities.



Chronology of events

- While S&D provisions provide flexibility for developing countries to schedule commitments according to their ability to implement them, coupled with technical assistance based on needs assessments; the key now is to synergise both parts of the agreement so that the flexibilities in section 2 are used constructively to move the disciplines in Section 1.
- It is now being felt that assistance is available, but the challenge is to find a way to better link needs with available assistance.



Trading Across Borders Indicator

7	

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Documents to Export (no.)	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Documents to Import (no.)	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Time to Export (days)	27	27	18	17	17	17	16	16
Time to Import (days)	41	41	21	20	20	20	20	20

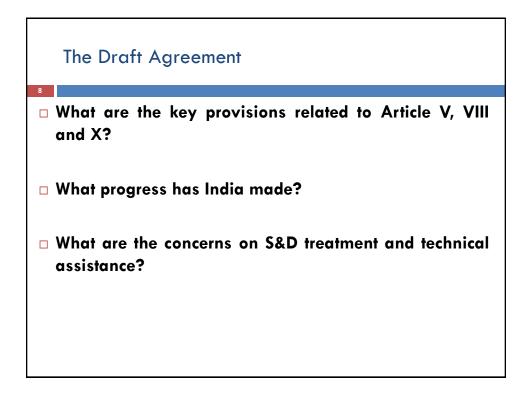
Source: Doing Business Report, World Bank

• For India, the number of documents required, to import and export, has remained the same for the past eight years at 11 and 9 respectively.

 \bullet Though, the time taken for exports has reduced over the years from 27 days in 2006-07 to 16 in 2013.

• The time taken for imports has gone down drastically from 41 days in 2006-07 to 20 days for all the past five years (2009-13).

•India's cost to export is US\$1,120 per container and cost to import: US\$1,200. The best performer globally is Malaysia with US\$435 per container cost of export and US\$420 per container cost of import in 2013



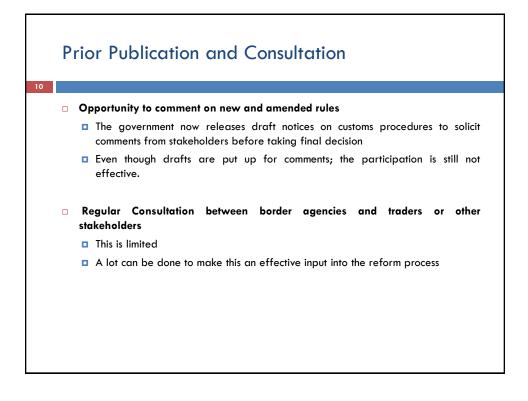
Publication and availability of information

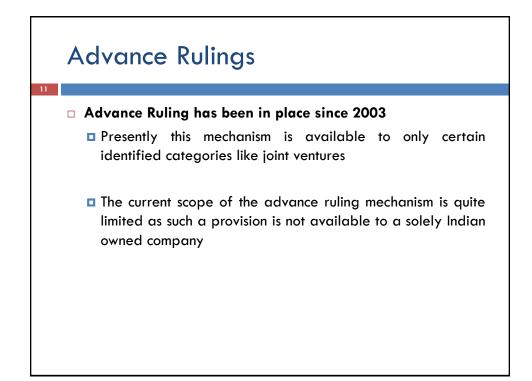
Publication

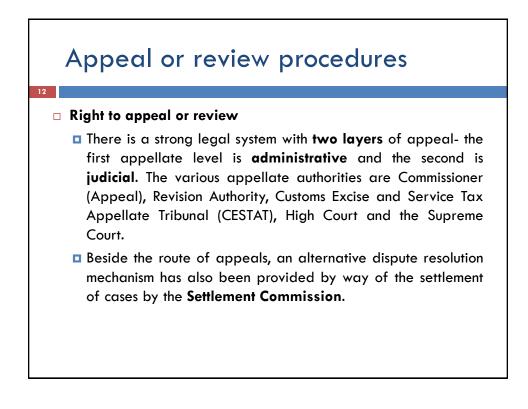
- India publishes all relevant trade related information
- Information available through internet on various websites

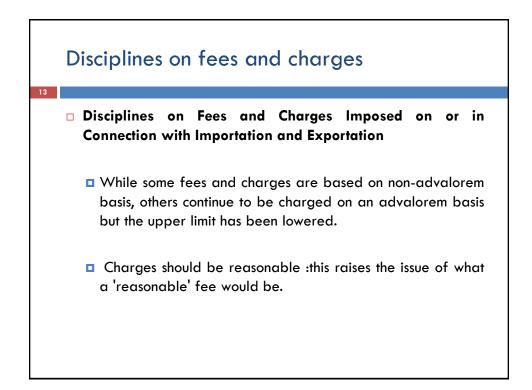
Single Enquiry Point

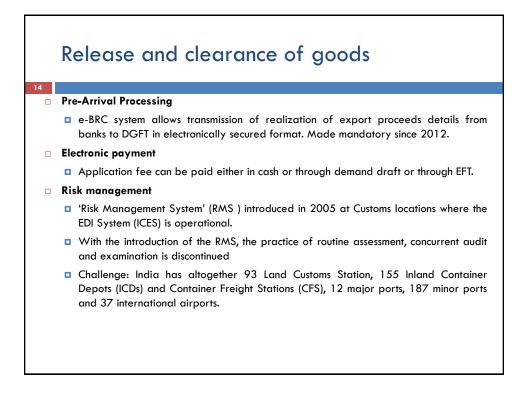
India has submitted to the WTO that having a single enquiry point in a vast country like India may not be an effective mechanism. What seems feasible is a sectoral enquiry point with different agencies to start with and then move towards a single enquiry point eventually.











Contd.

Post clearance audit

- Available for importers registered under the Accredited Client Programme (ACP).
- □ "Self-Assessment" in Customs, implemented in 2011

Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times

- India has started publishing data on release and clearance of goods which is being measured by the dwell time at ports.
- The challenge is that it may not be possible to do it on all the ports.

Consularization and Border Agency Cooperation

- Consularization has been a non-issue for WTO negotiations as India has never had consular charges for exporters to India
- Border Agency Cooperation is a major problem area for the trading community as there is still no co-ordination between the customs authority and the port authority resulting in delay of clearance of goods. Lack of adequate infrastructure for allied agencies like testing laboratories further create delay at the border

