

India, US look to end remaining WTO dispute on poultry

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Jaipur, August 24

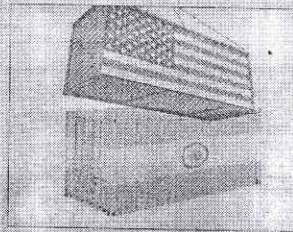
INDIA AND THE US are looking to resolve the last remaining dispute at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on restrictions imposed by New Delhi on poultry imports, a senior official said on Thursday.

Both countries had agreed to resolve six disputes when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the US in June. The seventh one on poultry was not taken up.

The complaint in the seventh dispute, filed by the US, had progressed far at the WTO and an order had been passed against India. As

India had not complied with the ruling within the stipulated time, the US had sought compensation. A WTO panel had even decided on the compensation amount, but that report has not been adopted by either party.

The official said that now the two countries have resolved six out of seven trade disputes, "we are trying to resolve the seventh also". This matter along with some others is expected to figure during the bilateral meeting of commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and US trade representative Katherine Tai in New Delhi. The bilateral meeting would also take stock of the



progress on trade matters discussed during Modi's US visit.

A joint statement on the conclusion of the visit had said the PM has expressed India's interest towards being recognised as a Trade Agreements Act-designated country by

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the US to enhance the integration of both economies and to further promote trade and investment between the two. The two sides have welcomed the initiation of discussions at an official level on issues related to bilateral government procurement. "We also want to be part

of their (government procurement) process, they also want to be part of our process," the official added.

Of the six disputes at WTO with the US that were resolved, three were initiated by India and three by the US. They included a complaint by India against the US with regard to the imposition of countervailing duties on certain hot rolled carbon steel flat products from India.

On September 9, 2016, India filed a case against the US pertaining to domestic content requirements and subsidies instituted by the state governments of Washington, California, Montana, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Michigan,

Delaware and Minnesota, in the energy sector.

Another dispute filed by the US against India was related to domestic content requirements under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission for solar cells and solar modules. In 2018, the US filed a case against India's alleged export subsidy measures. Similarly on July 3, 2019, the US filed a dispute against New Delhi on imposition of additional duties with respect to certain products originating in the US.

The US is India's largest trading partner. In 2022-23, bilateral goods trade increased to \$128.8 billion as against \$119.5 billion in 2021-22.