WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/LIC/Q/BGD/3

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Committee on Import Licensing

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IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF BANGLADESH

QUESTIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO BANGLADESH

The following communication, dated 30 May 2013, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the United States.

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1. Bangladesh last responded to the Annual Questionnaire on Import Licensing in accordance with Article 7.3 of the Import Licensing Procedures Agreement in 2007. In G/LIC/N/3/BGD/4, Bangladesh asserted that:

> "The Government of Bangladesh has abolished the Import Licensing System in Financial Year 1983-84. Accordingly, no import licence is required for import of any item into Bangladesh. Therefore questions relating to import licensing procedures are not applicable in the case of Bangladesh."

2. Whether or not import licensing measures are being implemented, under Article 7.3 of the Import Licensing Procedures Agreement, Members are required to complete the annual questionnaire on import licensing procedures promptly and in full.

3. According to a pharmaceuticals directive issued by the Prime Minister in 1998, Bangladesh appears to prohibit importation of medicines that are produced in sufficient quantities within Bangladesh. The directive also appears to provide that the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare will take necessary action after scrutinizing the statement of the Association Regarding Registration of foreign medicine.

4. The United States respectfully requests that Bangladesh provide a description of administrative procedures associated with the directive, including with respect to the following questions:

- What is the status of this 1998 directive of the Prime Minister? Is it still being implemented?

- Please describe the purpose of "indent" requests submitted to the Director General of Drug Administration, the basis for approving indent requests; and, what the procedures and requirements are for obtaining an indent.

- We understand that importers are required to obtain an indent in order to import medicines. Are local producers required to obtain such approval?

- What is a certificate of registration from the Directorate of Drug Administration? Who is required to obtain such registration? Is such registration required before Bangladesh will allow imports of pharmaceuticals into the market?

- How long does the process take to receive a certificate of registration and an indent?

The United States looks forward to receiving a timely response from Bangladesh, and appreciates your review of this matter.

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