Under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, India was granted extension of the exception under Article 12.8 up to 11 March 1986 from the obligations of Article 7.2 in respect of Indian Standards Institution (Certification Marks) Act at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Committee. For bringing the Indian legislation in conformity with the obligations undertaken by India under the Agreement, it is necessary to amend the ISI (Certification Marks) Act so as to make it open to overseas manufacturers and suppliers. The legislative formalities for the amendment of the Act have not, however, been completed. It would be appreciated in this connection that in a country like India, a large number of States and a number of government departments are concerned with the operation of the Act directly or indirectly. Considerable amount of time was needed for consultations with them and for completion of the process for finalizing the legislation. The legislation is now proposed to be introduced in the Parliament in the current session.

It is, therefore, requested that the extension of time may be granted to India in respect of the exception under Article 12.8 from the obligations of Article 7.2 until the legislative formalities are completed. As soon as the legislative formalities are completed, the GATT secretariat would be immediately informed and exception granted would cease to end from that date.

It may be mentioned that even though the ISI Act has not been amended, there are no hurdles of technical nature to suppliers intending to export their products to India.