

Ranking Member John Thune
Questions for the Record
Nomination of Arun Kumar to be
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and
Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Hearing on November 21, 2013

- 1) The Government of India is engaged in an apparent pattern of discrimination against foreign products, including those from the United States, designed to benefit its domestic corporations. It is unfairly compelling domestic production of everything from information technology and clean energy equipment to medicines and medical devices, and creating barriers at the expense of American jobs and exports. This is no way for one of the world's biggest economies to treat its second largest export trading partner. And there is reason to fear other countries may adopt similar tactics.

If confirmed, what will you do to secure real and timely results for American manufacturers to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by India's non-compliance with international obligations?

From my work with India, I am personally aware of the challenges that doing business there poses for U.S. companies. These include uncertainties in the policy environment; and localization barriers to trade and intellectual property issues that have the effect of discriminating against foreign producers.

I share your concerns about discriminatory trading practices hurting U.S. businesses. I know the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service has officers on the ground in India and around the world who are focused on helping U.S. businesses deal with such challenges.

If confirmed, I will promote U.S. exports vigorously, and support our commercial diplomacy in India and around the world to address discriminatory trading practices that affect U.S. firms and workers. If confirmed, I will support our business advocacy efforts on behalf of U.S. exporters, to assist them in succeeding in India and other large markets. If confirmed, I will work with colleagues in the Commerce Department and elsewhere throughout the government to achieve appropriate enforcement of U.S. and international laws and provisions that prohibit discriminatory trade practices, particularly when such practices affect U.S. exporters.