

- imposition of anti dumping duties which is said to raise cost of fabrics in the exported countries.
- labour standards are linked to trade; US insists on social clause as imports are produced with cheap labour and child labour. This is so especially in carpets, textiles, dyeing and bleaching, garment making, knitwear, leather tanning and goods manufacture, floriculture etc.

Harkin's Bill and International Child Labour Elimination Act of 1997 :

The introduction of " Child Labour Deterrence Act of 1992 " in the U.S. Senate, infamous as Tom Harkin Bill, was clear in its substance in many ways. Its Sec. 2C(2) spelt out the aims and objectives, " To strengthen and supplement international trading rules with a view to renouncing the use of underage children in production as a means of competing in international trade." The 1993 version of the act also outlined its purpose, " Adult workers in the United States and other developed countries should not have their job imperilled by imports produced by child labour on developing countries. Further Senator Tom Harkin remarked, " Our policy towards the third world should promote economic growth with equity and human development because it is in our interest. As the markets expand, so too will American jobs and our exports."

It was not only Senator Harkin, but the developed countries, trade unions and NGOs in those countries together had started demanding the inclusion of social clause in multilateral trade agreements at this time.

Then at the last stage of Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations, the developed countries demanded enforcement of the social clause - labour and environmental standards - through this instrumentality of WTO. But Indian trade union movements and labour support groups overwhelmingly rejected it on the grounds that it is nothing but protectionist, represents the hegemony of the developed and transnational groups and it is an ideological instrument to divide the workers between those of developed and developing countries

Rugmark Initiative - It's Background :

In 1990 consumer awareness campaign was initiated in Germany with the help of trade unions , religious and human rights organisations and consumer groups. The campaign quickly spread to other European countries and the US. The impact was significant, causing carpet exports to drop considerably and creating panic among the producers and exporters. It also led to the formation of an important network of development and human rights organisations focused on