

patents applications from the date of application of TRIPS Agreement i.e. from 1st January, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons for providing in the ordinance to keep the patent applications pending till 31st December, 2004; and

(c) whether his Ministry will place a copy of List of Applications received for product patents?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) As a developing country member of the World Trade Organisation, India has a transition period upto 31st Dec., 1999 to align its laws on intellectual property rights in accordance with its obligations under the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organisation Agreement. An additional transition period, upto 31 December, 2004, is also available to introduce product patent protection to areas of technology not protected so far, mainly in relation to pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals. It

can thus delay the examination of product patent applications filed in the fields of pharmaceutical and agricultural chemicals upto 31 December, 2004.

(c) All applications received for patents, whether product or process, are notified in the Gazette of India Part III Section (ii).

Assets and liabilities of PSUs

2998. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the assets and liabilities of National Instruments Limited (NIL), Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd., (BOGL), Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL), National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd., Cycle Corporation of India Ltd., (CCIL) Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC), Tannery & Footwear Corporation Ltd. (TAFCO), and Rehabilitation India Corporation Ltd. (RIC) separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): A statement of assets and liabilities is given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of PSUs	(As on 31.3.1998)		
		Assets*		@Liabilities
		Fixed	Current	
1.	National Instruments Ltd. (NIL)	1.44	4.95	164.97
2.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL)	1.06	7.81	185.46
3.	Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL)	0.06	0.87	36.51
4.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd. (NBCIL)	0.67	5.87	168.17
5.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL)	0.37	5.50	396.44
6.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd. (MAMC)	20.10	73.84	189.28
7.	Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Ltd. (TAFCO)	3.58	2.72	297.59
8.	Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd. (RIC)	1.21	11.45	468.31

*Excluding Accumulated losses

@ Based on annual accounts