

- (b) if so, the reasons for its sickness;
- (c) what is the total accumulated losses of HMT;
- (d) whether the losses have crossed the total capital and resources;
- (e) which units of HMT are making losses and which are making profit; and
- (f) whether Government have approved the restructuring plan of the HMT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Question does not arise.
- (c) The total accumulated losses of HMT as on 31.03.1998 is Rs. 102.84 Cr.
- (d) The losses have not crossed the capital and resources (Reserves) as on 31.03.1998.
- (e) During 1997-98, profit making and loss making Units of HMT are as under:—

*Profit making units:*

Machine Tools Units at Bangalore, Pinjore & Kalamassery, CNC Systems Division, Bangalore; Central Reconditioning Division, Bangalore; Die Casting & Plastic machinery Division, Bangalore; Press Division, Hyderabad; Tractor Division, Pinjore.

*Loss making Units:*

Machine Tools Units at Hyderabad & Ajmer; Precision Machinery Division, Bangalore; R&D Centre, Bangalore; Printing Machinery Division, Kalamassery; Food Processing Machinery Unit, Aurangabad; Central Metal Forming Institute, Hyderabad; Watch Factory Units at Bangalore, Srinagar, Tumkur & Ranibagh; Watch Case Divisions at Bangalore & Hyderabad; Watch Battery Project, Lamp Unit, Hyderabad.

- (f) HMT is yet to finalise and submit the proposal for Government's consideration.

**Law to protect Indian patents**

67. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India propose to introduce a new law to protect Indian patents; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken for early protection of national interests by interaction between the

scientific establishments and educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) In order to implement the obligations contained in TRIPS Agreement of WTO Agreement India has time till January 1, 2000 to amend the Patents Act, 1970 and a further time till January 1, 2005 to introduce product patent protection to areas of technologies not protected so far.

**Achievement of targets by PSUs**

68. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to revamp Public Sector Undertakings to improve their performance;
- (b) whether all the Public Sector Undertakings with whom MOU were entered into during the last three years to achieve targets have succeeded in their objectives;
- (c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) In order to improve the performance of PSUs considering the multiplicity of the factors involved in the functioning of the PSUs, enterprise-specific measures are taken by the concerned Administrative Ministries for the PSUs under their administrative control. The general steps taken in this regard are given on page 134 of Volume I of Public Enterprises Survey (1996-97) which was placed before the Parliament on 8th June, 1998.

(b) and (c) The objectives of the MOUs is to help PSUs in achieving improvement in performance and to allow PSU reasonable autonomy to function. These objectives have broadly been achieved.

**Compliance of WTO ruling**

69. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:  
SHRI AKHILESH DAS: SHRI  
RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after years of dithering, India has decided to comply with the World Trade

Organisation ruling on patent protection for pharmaceutical and agro-chemical products from the European Community;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far it would be helpful in promoting India's interests?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) Government is exploring different options for implementing the recommendations and rulings of the Dispute Settlement Body of WTO relating to India's obligations contained in Articles 70.8 and 70.9 of the TRIPs Agreement of the WTO Agreement.

#### **Patenting of Medicinal Plants**

70. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the conspiracy of patenting Indian medicinal plants in foreign countries; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take or what type of law they propose to enact and implement to prevent patenting of medicinal plants in foreign countries and by when?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) No such information is maintained by the Government.

Patents cannot be granted for plants, patents are granted by respective Governments under their patent laws. Whenever information is received about patent being taken on certain products which are not considered patentable, steps are taken to assess whether grant of patent can be challenged.

#### **Survey of Workers in Various Industries**

71. SHRI VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey about the number of regular and casual workers in various industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir National Sample Survey Organisation carries out detailed Labour Force Survey once in every five years. The surveys provide data on regular & casual workers by broad group of Industries. List such survey was carried out in 1993-94 and results published in Report No. 409 entitled as "Employment & Unemployment in India 1993-94". Per 1000 distribution of usually employed persons by status of employment as reported in the report is enclosed in the statement (*see below*)

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

*State-wise distribution of per 1000 usually employed persons by status of employment*

"51 State/UT		"Usual Principal Status					
No	Self	Regular	Rural	Urban			
	Employed	Employed	Casual Labour	Self Employed	Regular Employed	Casual Labour	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	464	55	481	389	358	253
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	853	124	23	215	700	85
3.	Assam	531	166	303	437	447	116
4.	Bihar	518	43	439	467	367	166
5.	Goa	324	357	319	337	470	193
6.	Gujarat	463	74	463	360	438	202
7.	Haryana	617	130	253	402	453	145
8.	Himachal Pradesh	820	90	90	343	571	86
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	738	153	109	407	548	45
10.	Karnataka	536	55	409	389	392	219