

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 thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA): (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*

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Kerala	382	132	486	354	292	354
12.	Madhya Pradesh	598	46	356	403	399	198
13.	Maharashtra	467	81	452	349	518	133
14.	Manipur	803	142	55	596	376	28
15.	Meghalaya	796	64	140	331	566	103
16.	Mizoram	913	77	10	609	337	54
17.	Nagaland	736	232	32	389	552	59
18.	Orissa	532	53	415	362	472	166
19.	Punjab	536	136	328	465	421	114
20.	Rajasthan	763	55	182	480	412	108
21.	Sikkim	549	283	168	448	485	67
22.	Tamil Nadu	396	101	503	344	388	268
23.	Tripura	554	134	312	372	497	131
24.	Uttar Pradesh	722	52	226	566	315	119
25.	West Bengal	516	113	371	353	490	157
26.	A.&N. Islands	475	369	156	169	639	192
27.	Chandigarh	309	261	430	295	602	103
28.	D.&N. Haveli	223	131	546	340	502	158
29.	Delhi	384	288	328	441	415	144
30.	Daman and Diu	324	656	20	418	471	111
31.	Lakshadweep	270	537	193	407	465	128
32.	Pondicherry	326	202	472	281	432	287
TOTAL		553	72	375	404	416	180

#### Creches in Tea Plantations

72. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:  
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of creches operating in the Tea Plantations in major States since 1996;

(b) the total number of children admitted in these creches in each state;

(c) the total wages paid to the employees of creches in these States; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred to look after these children, excluding the wages of the employees working in them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Modification of Industrial Disputes Act

73. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a major policy initiative, Government propose to modify the Industrial Disputes Act to allow sick factories to close without prior permission and at the same time substantially boost the compensation package to workers who lose their jobs; and

(b) if so, by when will this policy be notified?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Various amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act are proposed based on the requirements of the Social Partners and in consonance with economic reforms. A cautious Policy is adopted to bring about any amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act after taking into consideration all the relevant factors.

#### Survey of Child Labour in the Country

74. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any effective steps to conduct survey with regard to child labour working in hazardous factories