

Changes in Patent Laws

1727. SHRI. P. UPENDRA:
 SHRI CHIMANBHAI
 MEHTA:
 SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
 SHRIMATI RENUKA
 CHOWDHURY:
 SHRI G.G. SWELL:
 SHRI ANANTRAY
 DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although a developing country like India has ten more years to change patent laws, Government is seeking to make changes immediately;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Patent Bill passed by Lok Sabha would amount to granting exclusive market rights to patent holders in agriculture and pharmaceuticals with immediate effect; and

(d) whether the patent holders are permitted to charge any price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The changes proposed in patents law are in accordance with the transition periods stipulated in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

(c) The grant of exclusive marketing rights in the fields of drug or medicine will be subject to the fulfilment of the conditions specified in the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

(d) In the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1995, provision has been incorporated in the public interest where Central Government can direct the selling or distribution of an article or a substance for which an exclusive marketing right has been granted, at a price determined by an authority specified by it.

New Scheme for Integrated Infrastructural Development

1730. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Ministry of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme of Integrated Infrastructural Development was launched recently to strengthen the infrastructural facilities in 50 centres in rural and backward areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many of these centres are in NE Region; and

(d) the progress made so far under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) A New Scheme of Integrated Infrastructural Development (including technological back up services) for small scale industries was approved by the Government on 23rd February, 1994. The Scheme envisages to set up about 50 centres in rural/backward areas, excluding those districts having Growth Centres during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. The cost of each project not exceeding Rs. 5 crores would be financed jointly by the Central Government and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in the form of grant and loan respectively in the ratio of 2:3. Cost in excess of Rs. 5 crores would be met by State Government/Implementing Agencies. The State/UT Governments are to nominate suitable agencies having good track record for implementing the projects under the scheme. State Governments are to provide suitable land for the projects the cost of which may be recovered from the implementing agencies.

Since the launching of the scheme, following 13 projects have been sanctioned: