

provisions of the Patents Act of 1970 are too well known for me to recount.

It was always realised by the third world countries that joining the Convention was in no way going to improve the technological capability of their indigenous sector. The patents system has been used by the industrialised countries to restrict the development of indigenous industries developing countries. What is more important is that India has remained the leader of the developing world in the field of protection of intellectual property. It led the group of 77 in this field.

The negotiations regarding this have been appropriately conducted in World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and UNCTAD. However, there has been a reversal of the stand and on 8th April the Government has agreed, we have decided, to desist it in the GATT itself. It has raised the following important questions to which I am inviting the attention of the Government, through you:

1. Whether as a result of this agreement the field of negotiations has shifted to substantive question of 'adequate standards and principles relating to intellectual property rights, enforcement of such rights' and the question of 'dispute settlement within the ambit and juridical framework of GATT';

2. Adequacy of national standards and principles relating to IPRS will be judged multilaterally;

3. The patent rights will be defined in hard terms at the GATT level, and developing countries will be required to bring in legislation to honour these rights;

4. It is extremely doubtful whether in future we will be able to exercise the option of conducting these negotiations in WIPO or UNCTAD; and lastly;

5. It will now enable the US to apply Section 301 of the US Trades Act by raising as a GATT dispute the 'adequacy of patents and other rights provided by the developing countries and

legitimise its striking power under Sections 301 by withholding multilaterally agreed concessions in regard to trade in goods.

A denial has been issued by the Ministry of Commerce. It is vague, deceptive, does not inspire any confidence and is far from satisfactory.

This change of view is important not only to India but to the entire third world. The Government must through Parliament take the nation into confidence and give an assurance that the interests neither of India nor of the third world countries will be sacrificed in any manner whatsoever.

And suitably I also request you to grant a half-an-hour discussion on this very important subject.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): Madam, we support this Special Mention.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): We also support this and demand a half-an-hour discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may write to the Chairman and if he considers it necessary, he will allow it.

Neglect of Historical Buildings of Lucknow

DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI (Uttar Pradesh): Through you, Madam, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the utterly unsatisfactory conditions of some historical buildings of Lucknow which are of national importance as these are connected with the First War of Indian Independence of 1857. These buildings are looked after by the Archaeological Department of the Government of India because of their historical importance. One of the buildings to which I refer is the Residency or Bailey guard with which is connected a glorious chapter of the First War of Indian Independence. This building was noted for its excellent architecture and was considered to be one of the finest buildings. The British troops under Sir Henry Lawrence had to take refuge in this building and this was besieged by the Indian Liberation Army. The

[Dr. Mohd. Hasim Kidwai]

British had to suffer considerable loss of life. Sir Henry Lawrence and a number of English army officers had been killed and for months together it was besieged by the Indian Army and a number of spots in this building are still to be found there which remind us of the heroism and valour of the Indian Liberation Army. This building now consists of ruins and it is felt that whatever is left of it will soon collapse because of the negligence of the Archaeological Department of the Government of India. Little or no attention is paid by this Department and what is still more unfortunate is this that this building of national importance has now become a den of criminals.

The second building with which an important event of the First War of Independence is connected is the historic building, Qadam Rasul, a building which was constructed by the king, Ghazialuddin Haider. It was a holy place because as in it was housed a stone on which there were the footprints of the Prophet. In the War of Independence of 1857, a number of Indian forces had assembled in it and this had been badly damaged by the invasion by the British forces. The Archaeological Department does not pay any attention to the repairs of these buildings with the result that this building has been reduced to ruins.

Similarly, the historic Fort of Alam Bagh, where a fierce battle had taken place between the Indian liberation army, led by the Great valiant national heroes, Maulana Ahmadullah Shah and Begum Hazrat Mahal, and the British forces in 1857, has also been reduced to ruins or Khandars on account of the scant attention paid to it by the Department of Archaeology of the Government of India.

Through you, Madam, I would impress upon the Government to pay special attention to the repairs of these historical buildings which are most important from the national point of view and to take action against the officials of the Archaeological Department who have failed to perform their duties.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nothing could be heard.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes. I think there is something wrong with the sound system. Now, Mr. Ashis Sen.

Refusal to Grant loans to Kisans by Gramin Banks in Badaun District, UP.

SHRI ASHIS SEN (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, a little earlier, we had heard about favours being shown to the big industrialists. I will now show you how the rural poor and the kisans are being disfavoured.

Madam, a serious situation has arisen in Budaun district of Uttar Pradesh because the Kisan Gramin Bank, that is, the local Regional Rural Bank of the district has stopped granting loans. By a circular dated the 30th January 1989, the Bank Chairman has asked all Branch Managers to keep withheld their loaning powers under threat of disciplinary action. The reason is stated to be the alarming fund position although the bank as a whole has fulfilled the deposit target as per its Action Plan. The greatest victim is the IRDP. By 31st December, 1988, deposits of about eight to nine crores of rupees were secured. Rupees one crore is reported to be on hand already for disbursement. But some decline in the rate of recovery of earlier loans is rumoured to be another reason for this action. But this means nothing more than a lower percentage of refinance from NABARD. The Bank has not made any arrangement of credit recovery meetings for improving the position. Madam, the Officers' Association proposed to the Chairman that loans be granted out of the deposits being collected by the respective branches. Also, they suggested that the surplus of Rs. 1 crore in hand be disbursed through its 58 branches to meet the urgent needs of the poor borrowers. None of these suggestions has been heeded. The Association has written to the Minister of Finance, Government of India, on the 14th February 1989, to Shri Warshney, the Chairman of the sponsoring bank, namely, the Punjab National Bank, on the 23rd