(b) 172nd Report of the Law Commission focuses on the need to review the rape laws in the light of increased incidents of custodial rape and crime of sexual abuse. The Report aims at attainment of these objectives and has recommended changes for widening the scope of the offence in the Section 375 and to make it gender neutral. Various changes have also been recommended in the Sections 376, 376A to 376 D and insertion of a new Section 376E dealing with unlawful sexual contact, deletion of Section 377 IPC and enhancement of punishment in Section 509 of IPC. Ministry of Women and Child Development is considering a "Bill on offences against children", but no final view has yet been taken regarding subsuming provisions relating to children in the new law.

(c) The Indian Penal Code, 1860 has been amended a number of times in the last 150 years as and when the need arose to amend the IPC.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Products patents to pharmaceutical inventions

1360. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is granting products patents to pharmaceutical inventions/innovations; and

(b) if so, how many products patents are granted to the pharmaceutical inventions/innovations from 1st January, 2007 to 31st March, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Patent Officer granted 2880 product patents in the field of pharmaceuticals from 1st January, 2007 to 31st March, 2009.

Registration of Bhagalpur tussar silk under Geographical Indication Act

†1361. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that action has been taken for registration of Bhagalpur Tussar Silk under Geographical Indication Act;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for completion of this action;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the scope for growth and expansion of this industry in the country and abroad after completion of said action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Geographical Indication Application was filed on 15.07.2009 for registration of Bhagalpur Tussar Silk under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 and examination has been completed.

(c) and (d) Under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 an application has to undergo various stages including scrutiny, examination and publication. Objections if any are also dealt with before it is registered. Time frames have been fixed under the rules for completion of these stages.

(e) Registration of a Geographical Indication gives exclusive rights to the applicants, enables product differentiation which is related to the characteristics of a particular geographical region and facilitates access to markets. The applicants can also seek similar protection in the member countries of WTO.

Allocation of funds to land locked States

1362. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has plans to review of criteria for the allocation of funds to land locked States under the Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) This Department is operating Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme as per two components. 80% of total funds (State Component) available under ASIDE for disbursement are allocated amongst all States/UTs on the basis of an allocation criteria. Balance 20% is retained at Central Level (Central Component) for taking up the projects related to Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Central Agencies and inter-State projects. At this point of time no proposal to review criteria for allocation of funds to Land Locked States under ASIDE Scheme is pending with this Department.

Effect of P.M's call to set up industry

†1363. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.