

they obtain signature of the family head. The most important point is that there is all likelihood of mistakes to be committed while preparing the final details. The procedures which were being adopted during Census exercise recently, no opportunity was given/available to the individual person for checking the details enumerated by the enumerator about him and his family, because, the Government considers that the details of the Census should be kept secret. It is also important to note that the details so enumerated will form basic data for issuing Unique Identification Number.

I appeal to the Government to provide ample opportunity to individuals concerned to check their particulars, including the details about caste, that they have given to enumerators, as is done in voters list.

**Demand for Government's clarification on the proposed
changes in the Patent Act**

DR. T.N. SEEMA (Kerala): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the unreasonable demand to change the Indian Patent Act and the PMO Note on this issue. According to the news report, the PMO has sought the opinion of various Departments regarding amendment of some important provisions of the Indian Patent Act. This report also states that PMO's suggestion is based on a submission of Organization of Pharmaceutical Products of India, an association of pharmaceutical multinational companies. The proposal contains introduction of data exclusivity, patent linkage and amending section 3(d) of the Patent Act. Such amendment would compromise the ability of the Indian industry to produce low-cost generic versions of new drugs and would increase dependency on MNCs.

Considering the serious consequences of the proposal, I demand that the Government should clarify the following: The contents of PMO's proposal and the reasons for the proposed Government stand on the proposal.

**Demand to take steps for making Tuticorin as the
Hub Port in South-East Asia**

SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, it is very vital for the Tuticorin Port Trust to develop the Outer Harbour Project with an outlay of about Rs. 4350 crores. If work on the Outer Harbour Project is expedited, it will bring about rapid growth in terms of volume and revenue. Keeping in mind the geographical advantages of Tuticorin Port, the Outer Harbour Project should pave the way for establishing Tuticorin as South Asia Hub Port in the near future.

In order to cater to the increased volume of bulk cargo and containerized traffic, we request that the inner harbour may be developed to bring 12.80 Mtrs draft in Port and the establishing of second container terminal be expedited.

In view of the strategic location of Tuticorin Port, if world standard ship-building yard and dry dock are established in Tuticorin, it can generate employment opportunities in the hinterland and the southern districts will be benefited.