

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Government is not aware of any organization named World Intellectual Property Rights. However, World Intellectual Property Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations, has published in November, 2011 a report namely World Intellectual Property Report: The changing Face of Innovation. The report describes how ownership of Intellectual Property (IP) rights has become central to the strategies of innovating firms worldwide.

(b) to (d) Realising that innovation is the engine for the growth, prosperity and national competitiveness, the President of India has declared 2010-2020 as the "Decade of Innovation". Towards this end, the Government has set up the National Innovation Council (NIC) under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sam Pitroda, with the objective of implementing strategies for inclusive innovation in India and prepare a Roadmap for Innovation 2010-2020.

Adverse effect of Agricultural Produce

Marketing Act on retail market

†3105. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that as long as the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act is in force, foreign funded big investors can not legally purchase produce directly from farmers in the retail market of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance the amount of foreign capital investment in retail market in order to provide benefits to the farmers;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) whether Government had requested State Governments for amending above law before taking said decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) As agriculture marketing is a State subject, a number of State Governments and Union Territories have enacted legislations (APMC Acts) to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

provide for regulation of agricultural produce markets. In order to promote, inter alia, direct marketing/ procurement of agricultural produce directly from farmers by bulk buyers, exporters/ processors etc., the Ministry of Agriculture, in consultation with States/Union Territories, framed a Model/ APMC Act and circulated the same to States/Union Territories, in 2003, for making necessary amendments in their existing APMC Acts. Nineteen States/Union Territories have made such amendments in their APMC Act for direct marketing.

The Government has since approved a proposal to permit FDI, up to 51% under the Government route, in multi brand retail trading, subject to specified conditions. Amending the APMC Act is not one of the conditions. However, the decision has been suspended in order to evolve a broader consensus among various stakeholders.

Farmers are expected to benefit from the reduction in post-harvest losses, likely to result from the strengthening of the backend infrastructure and direct purchases by the retailers, thereby obtaining remunerative prices for their produce.

Export of rice and wheat under OGL

3106. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is allowing exports of five million tonnes of rice and wheat under the Open General Licence (OGL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Government has decided to permit export of non-basmati rice by the private parties out of privately held stocks from custom EDI ports. This was notified through Notification No. 71 (RE-2010)/2009-14 dated 09.09.2011 by DGFT, Government has also made export of wheat Free through custom EDI ports. The same was notified through Notification No. 72 (RE-2010)/2009-14 dated 09.09.2011 by DGFT.

Downward growth forecast by Moodys

3107. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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