

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Global ratings major Moodys it may revise the country's growth forecast for 2011-12 downward to 6.5 percent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what concrete steps Government is taking to see that the economy turns around?

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

(b) Both domestic and global factors are indicated to be responsible for moderation in the low growth forecast of the economy in 2011-12. These among other, include high inflationary tendencies, low capital formation, moderation in industrial growth and global economic uncertainty.

(c) Government has already taken some confidence building measures. The major focus areas include promotion and facilitation of industrial investment including foreign direct investment; improvement in business environment; development of industrial and other infrastructure through public private initiatives; incentivizing research and development; and development of industry related skills. Government in November, 2011 also announced a National Manufacturing Policy, which aims at making Indian industry globally competitive.

#### **Changes in patent rules for life saving drugs**

†3108. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI :

SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that life saving drugs are not available at cheaper rates due to the changes made in Indian patent law in the year 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government proposes to make any changes in new patent rules;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that many cases regarding patent of drugs are pending in the courts; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Patents Act, 1970, which was amended last in 2005, incorporates several provisions to enable availability of medicines at appropriate price while complying with the provisions of the WTO Agreement. There is, therefore, no proposal for further amendment to the Patents Act, 1970. Accordingly, amendment to the Patent Rules with a view to impact pricing of drugs is not contemplated.

(d) and (e) As per the information provided by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, at present, 54 cases are pending in various Courts. Of these, one case is pending before the Supreme Court, 10 cases are pending before the High Courts and 43 cases are pending with the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB).

#### **Dumping of plywood and apples by China**

3109. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is dumping plywood and apples in the country which has posed threat to domestic plywood sector and apple growers of Himachal Pradesh and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has imposed or propose to impose dumping duty on Chinese plywood and apples; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As no petition w.r.t. plywood and apples is received in Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied duties (DGAD), we are not in a position to inform whether China is dumping plywood and apples in the country. Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties(DGAD), an attached office of the Department of Commerce, is an investigating agency set up for conducting anti-dumping investigations which acts on the