

(c) and (d) No major decline in the production and prices of Areca nut in the domestic market has been observed. Minimum price of import has been enhanced from existing Rs.35/- to Rs.75/-per Kilogram *w.e.f.* 14.8.2012.

Circulation of draft IPR for inter-Ministerial consultation

2641. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has prepared a draft Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and circulated for inter-Ministerial consultation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several laws pertaining to IPR such as the Copyright Act have been amended to bring them at par with International level;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to give incentives for this sector considering the fact it takes at least Rs. 1 lakh to fill patent which may be an expensive proposition for small and medium enterprises in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has prepared a draft National IPR Strategy. The draft has been prepared on the basis of the comments received from the members of the Sectoral Innovation Council on IPRs. However, the same has not been circulated for inter-Ministerial consultation.

(c) and (d) Consequent to the TRIPS Agreement, India's IP laws were amended to incorporate the provisions of the said Agreement. Subsequently, in 2010, the Trademarks Act was further amended to enable accession to the Madrid Protocol which is a filing treaty and will allow companies to register their trademark in the Member-countries of the Protocol through a single application. The Copyright Act, 1957 was amended in 2012. The amended Act which came into force from 21st June, 2012, *inter alia* includes provisions of the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT).

(e) and (f) The financial assistance of Rs. 25,000/- for grant of domestic patent and Rs. 1 lakh for grant of international patent is provided to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises under the scheme Building Awareness on IPR for MSME of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Land utilised by Visakhapatnam SEZ

2642. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) was allotted 3132 acres of land;
- (b) if so, what is the volume of land utilised by VSEZ;
- (c) whether VSEZ returned the surplus land to Government; and
- (d) whether the surplus lands are being returned to its previous owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) was allotted and is notified on only 360.50 acres of land.

(b) Presently out of the 360.50 acres of land under VSEZ, 341.38 acres of land is occupied and balance land is available in plots of different sizes for allotment to prospective entrepreneurs.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Imposition of MAT to prevent entry of Non-SEZ industries

2643. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the root cause for the imposition of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) on Special Economic Zone (SEZ) was the entry of Non-SEZ industries particularly IT industry into SEZ to take advantage of the tax holiday given to SEZ;

(b) whether Government have received representations from companies, who brought in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by investing in SEZ, in this regard; and