

development of industry relevant skills; regular meetings with industry associations and stakeholders to fast track implementation of industrial projects.

In order step up of production of oil and gas, Government is encouraging participation of private sector, including foreign companies, for exploration and production of petroleum and natural gas and related activities that are capital intensive and requiring use of expensive state-of-art technology.

In order to increase the production of Metallic Minerals (Iron ore, manganese, chromites), the Government has sought to create an attractive environment for investment by legislative reforms in the form of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011 introduced in Parliament in December, 2011, quarterly review of pending cases of Environment and Forest clearances etc.

(d) The slowdown in the industrial growth is likely to have a moderating impact on the overall economic scenario and economic growth in terms of moderation in growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Import of Areca nuts

2640. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Areca nut is being imported from other countries including Malaysia and Indonesia, into Indian Markets;

(b) if so, the country-wise and year-wise details of the import of Areca nut for the last three years including current year;

(c) whether Government has taken note of the problems of Areca nut growers in the country due to fall in the prices of domestic Areca nut production; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to solve the problems of Areca nut growers to ensure adequate prices to their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Areca nut is imported from many countries including Malaysia and Indonesia. The details of imports, country-wise and year-wise for the last 3 years are as follows:

Country	2009-10		2010-11		
	Quantity (in Kg)	Value (in Rs. Crores)	Quantity (in Kg)	Value (in Rs. Crores)	
Austria	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Bangladesh	7699590	24.76	33238005	116.53	54
China PRP	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Finland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
France	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Germany	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Indonesia	23232175	41.60	23292572	52.05	5
Japan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Kenya	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Malaysia	88000	0.12	377	0.0048	
Myanmar	2207000	8.13	1028000	3.69	

Nepal	5365500	17.80	14604029	71.52	
Pakistan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Singapore	211000	0.30	Nil	Nil	
Spain	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Sri Lanka	1360176	6.56	2314507	10.79	
Tanzania	17836	0.03	Nil	Nil	
Thailand	1610326	3.06	1226540	3.16	
Turkey	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
UAE	14234	0.02	270194	0.98	
USA	Nil	Nil	68	0.0016	
Vietnam	Nil	Nil	13000	0.05	
TOTAL:	41805837	102.41	76041392	258.82	6

(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).