

(d) whether this will enable Indian companies to file for trademarks registration in as many as 87 countries with a single application at any trademarks office in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Under the Trademarks Act, 1999, the Registered Proprietor or the authorized user of a trademark can take recourse to civil or criminal action against the infringer in the appropriate fora. The statistics of trademark infringements is not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. The accession would enable the Indian companies to register their trademarks in the member-countries of the Protocol through a single application as well as allow foreign companies to register their trade marks in India, within a specific timeframe *i.e.* 18 months. At present, there are 86 contracting parties to the Protocol. Under the Trademarks (Amendment) Act, 2010, the Head Office of the Trade Marks Registry (which is at Mumbai) or such branch of the Trade Marks Registry as the Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette specify, will deal with the international applications.

Permission sought by MNC for single brand retail trade

18. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any multinational company has sought permission for starting single-brand retail operation with 100 per cent FDI in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

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

(b) M/s. Pavers England Ltd. and IKEA Group have submitted proposals for single brand retail trading with 100% FDI. No decision has been taken on these proposals.

Decline in exports

†19. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export from the country registered a downfall this year as well;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi