

Pending list for trade mark registration

1116. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRARAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge pending list for trade mark registration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for such pendency; and
- (d) the steps being taken to reduce pendency?

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

- (b) As on 31st March, 2012, the Trademarks Registry has:
 - (i) 2,38,944 applications pending at the examination stage;
 - (ii) 2,74,963 applications pending at the objection stage;
 - (iii) 1,35,874 applications pending at the opposition stage.

(c) and (d) Registration of Trade Marks is a quasi-judicial process which tends to be time consuming as it involves a number of steps, *inter alia*, examination of application, show cause hearings and completion of opposition proceedings. In addition, backlog has also arisen because of approximately 100% increase in the applications filed since 2001-02 and due to lack of adequate manpower. Registration agencies have been requested to hasten the recruitment process in order to fill up the vacant posts in the Trade Marks Registry. Other steps such as introduction of free search facilities and digitization of records, streamlining of office procedure have been taken with a view to improve efficiency and transparency and thereby hasten the process of registration.

Irregularities in export and import of foodgrains

1117. DR. T.N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain instances of irregularities have been reported in the export of foodgrains including pulses during the last three years;

- (b) if so, the year-wise total loss of revenue as a result of such irregularities;
- (c) whether few importers allegedly delay the lifting of the imported pulses from the docks, speculating rise in the prices of pulses in the domestic markets;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to monitor such irregularities and complaints and to take appropriate and corrective measures in the matter promptly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No irregularities have been reported in the export of foodgrains during the last three years. There is a ban on export of pulses to augment the domestic availability of pulses as there is gap between demand and production of pulses in the country.

- (b) Does not arise

(c) to (e) PSUs under Department of Commerce and NAFED undertook import of pulses on Government account (under a scheme for reimbursement of losses upto 15% which has been discontinued *w.e.f.* 31.3.2011) to bridge the gap between demand and production of pulses in the country and to exercise a moderating influence of prices. Certain delays were due to clearance delays at port, local holidays/strikes by transport authorities, and difficulty in locating warehouses at major ports. The local Plant Quarantine Authorities also delayed clearances. These delays/irregularities were beyond the control of importing agencies. While Government has been monitoring import of pulses on regular basis, the scheme was brought to a close *w.e.f.* 31.3.2011.

Delivery of Books Act, 1954

1118. DR. BARUN MUKHERJI : Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's Delivery of Books Act, 1954 (amended in 1956) is serving fully the purpose of a Legal Deposit Law;
- (b) if not, what are its drawbacks and what percentage of publications are being deposited every year one copy each to the four selected centralised library in Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi;