

**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;