

is available to manufacturers for all exports under 416 specified tariff lines [at ITC (HS) Codes at 4 digit level] and to exports made by manufacturers in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises across all ITC (HS) Codes. The rate of interest equalisation is 3% per annum.

- (iii) **Duty Exemption/Remission Schemes** viz Advance Authorisation (AA), Duty Free Import Authorisation (DFIA) and Duty Drawback (DBK) Scheme enable duty free import of inputs for export production, including replenishment of input or duty remission. Schemes to promote exports of Gem and Jewellery include Advance Procurement / Replenishment of Precious Metals from Nominated Agencies, Replenishment Authorisation for Gems, Replenishment Authorisation for Consumables and Advance Authorisation for precious metals. Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme facilitates import of capital goods at zero duty for producing quality goods and services to enhance India's export competitiveness. Authorisation holder under EPCG is not required to maintain average Export Obligation in respect of export of goods from following sectors viz. Handicrafts, Handlooms, Cottage and Tiny sector, Agriculture, Aqua-culture (including Fisheries), Pisciculture, Animal husbandry, Floriculture and Horticulture, Poultry, Viticulture, Sericulture, Carpets, Coir, and Jute.
- (iv) **Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme** is an Export Promotion Scheme envisaged to act as a catalyst to promote India's exports on a sustained basis. The scheme provides assistance to Export Promotion Organizations/ Trade Promotion Organizations/National Level Institutions/ Research Institutions/Universities /Laboratories, Exporters etc., for enhancement of exports through accessing new markets or through increasing the share in the existing markets.
- (v) **Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme** is under operation through the Department of Commerce to assist exporters for export promotion activities abroad, assist Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) to undertake export promotion activities for their product(s) and commodities and assist approved organizations/ trade bodies in undertaking exclusive non-recurring innovative activities connected with export promotion efforts for their members.

New IPR Policy

1840. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has announced the new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that though the Policy has been termed as comprehensive but it lacks specifics;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to make the Policy comprehensive by considering all the matters into account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The Government has approved the National IPR Policy on 12th May 2016. The policy lays down the following seven objectives:

1. IPR Awareness: Outreach and Promotion—Generation of IPRs: To create public awareness about the economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among all sections of society;
2. Generation of IPRs—To stimulate the generation of IPRs;
3. Legal and Legislative Framework: To have strong and effective IPR laws, which balance the interests of rights owners with larger public interest;
4. Administration and Management: To modernize and strengthen service-oriented IPR administration;
5. Commercialization of IPR: Get value for IPRs through commercialization;
6. Enforcement and Adjudication: To strengthen the enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IPR infringements;
7. Human Capital Development: To strengthen and expand human resources, institutions and capacities for teaching, training, research and skill building in IPRs;

(b) to (d) The policy is a vision document that lays the roadmap for future development in the field of IPRs. It is comprehensive and holistic, and cannot be said to lack specifics. It lists specific action points to be implemented towards fulfillment of the aforementioned objectives. These action points have been assigned to specific nodal departments for implementation. Already, certain points like transfer of Copyright and Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design to Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion have been acted upon and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules accordingly changed. Similarly, augmentation of manpower, including recruitment of 458 Patent Examiners, has been done.