

Steps to curb patent monopolies

12. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken to curb patent monopolies due to Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with the United States of America, the European Union (EU) as well as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);

(b) if so, what is India's position in the Special 301 Report released by the US, and

(c) if so, the details regarding price variations in cost of generic drugs and improvement in public access since 2014?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) India does not have a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States. However, India is negotiating an FTA with the European Union (EU) as well as under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). It is premature to speculate on its contents.

(b) and (c) India is placed on the Priority Watch List under the US Special 301 on account of USA's assessment of Indian Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection being inadequate. The Special 301 Report issued by the United States under their Trade Act of 1974 is a unilateral measure to create pressure on countries to enhance IPR protection. India is of the view that the IPR protection sought is beyond the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights or the TRIPS Agreement. India has a TRIPS compliant, robust, equitable and dynamic IPR regime. Its well-established legislative, administrative and judicial framework safeguards the Intellectual Property Rights of domestic and international stakeholders while meeting its international obligations by conscientiously utilizing the flexibilities provided in the international regime to address its developmental concerns. The Indian IP System maintains an adequate symmetry between the private rights of the IPR holder and public interest on the other hand. The Government operates various schemes to facilitate the access to generic drugs such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana (PMJAY).

Remedial measures to make police force efficient

13. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study conducted by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) revealing that a majority of Indian Police Officers, especially below the rank of Inspector face severe to mild