Proposal from WIPO to strengthen national and regional patent process

843. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to strengthen the national and regional patent process particularly for medicine;

(b) if so, whether India has international compliance on patent examination process and criteria thereof; and

(c) the proposal of Government on WIPOs plan for more stringent Intellectual Property Protection (IPP) patenting rights and access therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The patent examination process in India is fully compliant with the international obligations cast upon India following the signing of the TRIPS Agreement.

(c) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

Resolving trade disputes with foreign countries

844. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the various steps Government has taken so far in order to resolve trade disputes with many countries;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that resolving of disputes would create more economic opportunities; and

(c) if so, how Government is planning to boost small and medium enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) whenever a trade dispute arises between India and any other WTO member, India tries to resolve it by bilateral consultations first, failing which India resorts to dispute settlement under WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU). The provisions of DSU also makes it mandatory on WTO members to accord sympathetic consideration to and afford adequate opportunity for consultation regarding any representation made by another member. Further, provisions of DSU allows the Director General of WTO