

कार्यक्रम हाथ में ले सकते हैं। यदि इसी में भी राज्य की सरकार चाहती है, तो हमारे साथ बैठ कर इसका प्लान बना सकती है। आपकी योजना क्या है, उसी की तर्ज पर भारत सरकार को करना, क्या करना है, वह एक अलग चीज़ है। आप अपना मॉडल हमें बता दें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Protection of traditional knowledge under India's IPR Policy

*201. DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether studies have been undertaken by Government in the last three years to determine the appropriateness and extent of applying the existing laws to protecting Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, as per India's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the initiatives undertaken by Government to nurture Human Capital in relation to intellectual property, as per India's IPR Policy, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Although no specific study has been undertaken by the Government in the last three years to determine the appropriateness and extent of applying the existing laws to protecting Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE) as per India's IPR policy. However, Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) set up through the joint efforts of Ministry of AYUSH and Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi has published following scoping papers:

- Protection of Traditional Knowledge in India
- Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions in India

Scoping Paper on Protection of Traditional Knowledge in India and on Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions in India has identified scope for the future study.

Further, the Indian Laws are very robust and provide adequate provisions for the

protection of Traditional knowledge and Biological resources. Protections are granted through Indian Patent Act 1970 as amended, Biodiversity Act 2002 as well as Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) set up by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH.

(c) The National IPR Policy, 2016 *vide* Objective 7 lays emphasis on human capital development for strengthening and expanding human resources, institutions, capacities for teaching, training, research and skill building in IPRs. Since 2016, several initiatives have been undertaken to nurture human capital in India in relation with IPR, which inter alia includes the following:

- Content on IPRs have been included in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) curriculum for Business Studies in Commerce Stream.
- Content on IPRs has also been included in Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) curriculum for Legal Studies.
- IPR Awareness sessions have been organised for over 26,000 students from more than 650 schools across India.
- Over 1,00,000 students from colleges and universities across the nation have been reached out *via* more than 1,000 IP awareness programmes.
- 4 community radio programmes discussing specific IPRs were broadcast in collaboration with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), to reach out to students outside the formal education system.
- 12 training programmes have been conducted, through which over 670 teachers of the country have been sensitised on the subject.
- More than 100 IPR cells have been established in higher education institutions to facilitate IP filings for students and faculties.
- Capacity building initiatives with regard to MSMEs include five 5-day workshops that have been held for officers of MSME Development Institutes (DIs). These workshops enable the DIs to provide IP consultancy services to MSMEs and create IP awareness among them. 140 MSME DI officers have been trained in the mentioned 5 workshops.
- 125 one-day IP workshops have been conducted in MSME clusters of India.

- The National IPR Enforcement Workshop was organised by DPIIT in August 2017 which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. Subsequent to this workshop, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an advisory instructing all State police training academies to include IPR in the regular training curriculum for police officers.
- To strengthen the enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IPR infringements, 87 enforcement workshops have been organised for Police officials, 15 workshops for Customs and 14 for Judiciary.
- Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (RGNIPM), Nagpur has conducted 281 capacity building programs on IPRs.
- Department of Science & Technology (DST) Government of India has been implementing Patent Facilitation Programme (PFP) from the year of 1995. Under the Programme Department has established Patent Facilitation Cell (PFC) at Technology Information Forecasting Assessment Council (TIFAC) (an autonomous body of the Department) and subsequently 26 Patent Information Centres (PICs) in various states, for creating awareness and extend assistance on protecting Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) including patent, copyright, industrial design, geographical indication etc. at state level.
- Patent Facilitation Centers (PFC) under department of Science and Technology provides one year training in Intellectual Property Rights and Related Matters to women from science background and within the age bracket of 27-45 years. During the one year training the women are also paid a stipend between Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 35,000/- pm depending on their qualification. PFC have trained 417 Women Scientists during the last 6 years in 4 batches under the Women Scientist Scheme-WOS-C, KIRAN-IPR of DST. Out of these 417 women trained, 145 are registered Patent Agents.
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), under the scheme to Support for International Patent Protection in Electronics and IT sector sensitizes about Intellectual Property Rights and their protection among various stake holders consisting of students of engineering colleges, academia, startup community and business fraternity. Under the scheme financial support to academic institutions, industry bodies and MeitY autonomous societies are provided for conducting IPR Awareness workshops/

seminars pan India. Under the Scheme, MeitY has supported 81 such IPR awareness workshops/seminars pan India.

- The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has taken several initiatives to create awareness among farmers to protect their rights over traditional varieties. The PPV&FR Authority grants 35 awards amounting to Rs.85 Lakhs to farmer(s) and farming communities who have conserved and preserved land races and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions cannot be confined to traditional medicines alone, as has been given in the reply. It has to include both traditional arts and crafts particularly when there have been reports of pilferage of traditional Indian designs by international designers. My question is: Will the Government consider a *sui generis* legislation in India for protecting Traditional Cultural Expressions or a national development policy for TCEs inclusive of knowledge of traditional arts and crafts by involving the Ministry of Culture and other such Ministries?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I think it is very, very satisfying hon. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, that our Member has expressed interest in a subject which usually most people in public life don't take much interest in. I can reassure the hon. Member through you, that this is not only about medicine. When we talk about Traditional Knowledge in India, medicine comes to mind right away because it is something which is very well known, the AYUSH, the Ayurveda, the Unani, etc. All these medicine forms are publicly known. That is why, we traditionally associate with that. But when we talk of

Traditional Cultural Expressions in India, the IPR Policy very clearly says that this is something which is very intrinsic to India. It is our culture, it is our heritage, it is our tradition and it is our national wealth. I am happy to share with the hon. Member, through you, Sir, that the 3.6 lakh formulations which were a part of our Traditional Knowledge have now been made available to 13 patent offices all over the world and due to which we were able to save about 236 cases, which would otherwise have got patented somewhere else. They were able to deny that patent in different geographies because of this effort, to make the world aware that India has a lot of traditional knowledge. Similarly, on Traditional Cultural Expressions, we have had a study conducted by RIS, let us say, knowledge vetting study, just to get a feel of what Traditional

Knowledge and what Traditional Cultural Expressions roadmap should be. Now, we are in the process of working out a much more detailed analysis and to prepare a roadmap going forward.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Even the RIS includes only AYUSH. So, I would only request that the Ministry of Culture could probably be included.

The Government has created the Atal Incubation Centres which focus on scalable and technical sectors but the National IPR Policy envisages reaching out to the less visible and the silent IP generators in the rural and remote areas. My question is: How is the Government making use of the TRIPS Agreement flexibility — there is a provision of TRIPS Agreement flexibility — in achieving this, and what measures have the Government taken in this regard?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I fully appreciate the hon. Member's suggestion and the Ministry of Culture will have to be included. I will have the matter examined to see what is the involvement of culture that we should engage. But in every area, there is always a Line Ministry which focuses on it. For this, at present, it is AYUSH Mantralaya, but we will involve the Ministry of Culture to work in association with the studies that are going to be conducted. As regards the TRIPS Agreement, while it is not exactly relevant right now to the question as to how we can engage and use the TRIPS Agreement to further the interests of traditional knowledge and traditional culture, I will get back to the hon. Member with more details. But, I can reassure him that this Government is very committed that rural India should also get engaged with the world when it comes to India's Traditional Knowledge and culture. For that, we have brought a lot of sanity in the working of the eight areas of IPR, whether it is copyright, trademark, patents, where all of these are now synergised into one office. We are in the process of computerising every process, so that people don't have to go to any IPR office, whatsoever. In fact, in the whole of the United States, there is only one IPR office and everybody works online through video conferencing. I am trying to develop that module. With smart phones proliferating all over India, we would like that the rural artisans and craftsmen also can engage directly online through video conferencing, get advice which we provide free of charge. We have incidentally reduced the charges very significantly for start-ups, artisans, handicrafts and women entrepreneurs. I can reassure the House, through you, Sir, that this is one area this Government is very committed to support.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No supplementaries.

Now Question No. 202. Shri S. Muthukaruppan. The questioner is absent.

मंत्री जी, जवाब ले कर दीजिए।

*202. [The questioner was absent.]

Launching of "Uber for tractors" app

*202. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to launch "Uber for tractors" app to aid farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that this would help farmers to save precious groundwater and increase productivity by 10 to 15 percent;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that hitech levellers cost at least Rs. 3 lakh, which is way beyond the reach of the average small farmers; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by Government to help such segment of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Government has developed and launched Multi lingual Mobile App "CHC-Farm Machinery" which helps the farmers for getting rented farm machinery and implements including tractors through Custom Hiring Service Centres (CHC) in their area.

As on date, 41,992 CHCs with 1,33,723 Agricultural machinery for renting out are registered on this Mobile app. Total 1,12,505 farmers as users are registered on this Mobile App.

Through this Mobile App, various advance agricultural implements and machinery such as Laser land levelers, Zero till seed drill, Happy seeder, Mulchers, etc. will be available at the doorstep of farmers. Use of these machinery will save considerable