

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) An internal assessment of India's bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) or Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) with Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Bhutan, Nepal, Republic of Korea and Malaysia reveals that the cumulative average growth rate (CAGR) in trade with these partners over the last 5 financial years was 7.1%. While there has been growth rate in both imports from and exports to these FTA partners, the utilization rate of FTAs both for India and its partners has been moderate. The economic impact assessment of FTAs is a continuous process which is undertaken both in terms of data analysis and stakeholder consultations. An analysis of preferential import data for some of these agreements indicates that the FTA utilization rates have been moderate to high in the case of some sectors like iron and steel for the India Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and India Japan CEPA. Plastics in the case of India Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and automotives in the case of India Malaysia CECA.

(c) The review of the trade agreements is undertaken on the basis of mutual consent of the trading partners and demand from domestic stakeholders. Two reviews of the India Singapore CECA have been completed. The India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit was renewed in 2016 while the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade was extended in 2016. Eight rounds of negotiations have been completed for the review of the India Korea CEPA which commenced in 2016. Moreover, India has taken up the review of India Japan CEPA and India ASEAN FTA with its trading partners.

Protection of intellectual property-intensive industries

3097. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made progress in protecting intellectual propertyintensive industries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the rank of India among other countries in this regard; and
- (d) the steps being taken to make certain provisions amended in intellectual property related Acts in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Intellectual Property (IP) intensive industry is not defined, however, this Department has taken various initiatives to strengthen Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Regime in India like, legislative improvements, modernisation of IP offices, manpower augmentation, use of IT and technology in e-filing of applications, acceptance of email in all Indian Patent Office (IPO) transactions, online delivery of certificates of grant/registration of patent, trademark and designs in digital format, use of video-conferencing for hearing of IP applications, SMS alert to give updates, expedited examination of IP applications, spreading awareness in IPR, India's accession to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) administered treaties and signing of pilot Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) project with Japan in the month of December, 2019.

Impacts of the initiatives taken during last 5 years are as under:—

- Period of examination of new Trademarks applications has been reduced from 13 months to less than 30 days.
- Trademark is registered in less than 7 months, if there are no objections or opposition filed, as compared to 3-5 years required earlier.
- 11.25 lakh trademark registrations in just four and half years (2015 to 2019) as compared to 11 lakh registrations during 75 Years (1940-2015).
- Patent examination increased from 22,631 in 2014-15 to 85,426 in 2018-19.
- Time required for patent examination reduced from average 72 months in 2014-2015 to average around 36 months in 2019.
- Grant of patents has increased from 5,978 in 2014-15 to 15,283 in 2018-19.

(c) The Government of India has been working steadily to improve India's ranking in Global Innovation Index (GII) and this is evident from the fact that India has been consistently moving up on global ranking in past few years. India's ranking has improved from 81 in 2015 to 52 in 2019 in GIIL.

(d) Amendments in Acts related to Intellectual Properties are considered by the Government of India as and when deemed necessary.