

by the consumer to the Department without appearing in person or without filing any appeal;

(d) the number of such cases settled by the Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Delhi Collectories;

(e) the details of such cases along with the outstanding amount; and

(f) the steps taken/ being taken by the Department for the recovery of the outstanding amount and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under Sub-section(2) of Section 90 of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998 the declarant under the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme, is required to pay the sum determined by the designated authority towards full and final settlement of tax arrears within 30 days of the passing of the order by the designated authority.

(c) As per current information, out of a sum of Rs. 751 crores determined as payable under the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme relating to indirect taxes, a sum of Rs. 468 crores is reported to have been paid by 31.03.99 by the declarants in respect of Customs and Central Excise cases. Hence, a sum of Rs. 283 crores remain unpaid to the department under the scheme. Under direct taxes, an amount of Rs. 930 crores is payable. The information regarding amount outstanding is presently not available.

(d) and (e) The number of cases settled and the outstanding amounts in respect of indirect taxes in the 4 zones are as under :-

Zone	No. of Cases Settled	Outstanding Amount
Chennai	1141	Rs. 42.53 crores
Mumbai	2608	Rs. 19.84 crores
Calcutta	1025	Rs. 16.90 crores
Delhi	2151	Rs. 7.50 crores

Requisite information in respect of direct taxes is presently not available.

(f) The outstanding amounts, if any, cannot be recovered under the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme since the scheme is closed and there is no provision for the department to pursue for the recovery of amounts not paid even though determined as payable under the Scheme. All such cases will be dealt with under the normal provisions, which include charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment of bank accounts, and attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties.

[English]

Changes in the Patent Act

3831. SHRI BHUMA NAGI REDDY :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether USA has requested for consultations with India on changes in the Patent Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of safeguards provided for the protection of public health and nutrition in the Patent Act?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) The United States (US) requested for consultations with India in order to reach on a common understanding of the measures required to comply with the findings of the Disputes Settlement Body of the World Trade Organisation in the India-US dispute over patents. The Consultations were held in Geneva on February 11, 1999. The consultations covered the provisions in the amendments introduced to the Patents Act, 1970 including those applicable to mailbox and exclusive marketing rights and the provisions in relation to compulsory licensing. The position of Government of India was clarified to the US at that meeting.

(d) Section 47(2), Section 89 and 90 as well as provisions of Chapter XVII of the Patents Act, 1970 provide for detailed and adequate safeguards for the protection of public health and nutrition.

Recession in Steel Sector

3832. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Sector is badly hit by recession;

(b) if so, the increase/decline in production of finished steel during 1997-98 and target fixed in this regard during this period;

(c) the concrete efforts taken/being taken by the Government to achieve the target/improve the production of steel ;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any package of incentives and investment for revival/expansion/ upgradation/modernisation of steel industry;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard;

(f) whether import of huge quantity of cheap steel export during the last three years is also one of the reason of recession;