

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1118

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2000

PATENT ON BASMATI RICE

RAMSHETH THAKUR;UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have failed to defend India's interest in the Basmati rice patent case in the U.S;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the further steps being taken by the Government to save the Indian products being patented by foreign countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) : No, Sir.

(b) & (c): Do not arise.

(d): Patents are granted by respective Governments under their Patents laws. Whenever information is received about patents being taken on certain products which are of commercial interest to India and which in our views do not satisfy the criteria of patentability, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of patent can be challenged. On collection of sufficient material a challenge petition is filed for re-examination and ultimate revocation of patent in that country.