

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3900
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
A.P. JITHENDER REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Union Government to sort out differences with USA over the issue of intellectual property rights; and
- (b) the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

a)&b) Efforts have been made to reconcile differences between India and the United States over intellectual property rights issues. These efforts relate essentially to steps taken to implement India's obligations, as a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), under the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement. Changes have been made in the Patents Act 1970 through the Patents (Amendment) Act 1999, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha in December 1998 and the Lok Sabha in March 1999. Legislations on design, trademark and geographical indication have also been enacted. These comply with the obligations in the TRIPS Agreement. A Bill to amend the Patents Act 1970, namely, the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 was also introduced in the Rajya Sabha in December 1999, and referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament thereafter. The Bill seeks to make the Indian Patent law TRIPS compliant.