

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7849
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2002
SPECIAL WATCH LIST
C. SREENVAASAN;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

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

- (a) whether United States of America has again put India on `Special 301` Watchlist;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on our economy;
- (c) the reasons for taking this step by USA;
- (d) the reaction of Indian Government thereto;
- (e) whether both the countries have failed to resolve the concerns arising out of non- compliance of TRIPS (Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights) agreement;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the action the Government have taken in this regard keeping the interests of the country uppermost?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (c) : As per Annual Special 301 Report for 2002, released by the United States Trade Representative (USTR), India has been retained in the Priority Watch List along with 14 other countries. India is being kept under this category since 1995. Under Special 301, USTR lists countries as `priority foreign country`, `priority watch list` and `watch list`. It is only for countries identified as `priority foreign country` that the USTR is obliged to initiate an investigation.

(c) to (g) : India has already undertaken appropriate initiatives and enacted/amended the under mentioned legislation related to protection of Intellectual Property Rights to meet its obligations under the TRIPS Agreement:

1. The Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999;
2. The Trade Marks Act, 1999;
3. The Designs Act, 2000;
4. The Copyright Act, 1957 as amended upto December, 1999;
5. The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Designs Act, 2000;
6. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers` Right Act, 2001

Further, in order to amend the Patents Act, 1970, Patent (Second Amendment) Bill has been passed in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May 2002.