

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1423  
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001  
MODERNIZATION OF PATENT OFFICES  
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

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

- (a) whether the Government sanctioned a project for modernization of patent offices at a cost of Rs. 75.79 Crores for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan Period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and when the project has been completed;
- (c) whether this project has been made fully operational including all the branches of Patent Offices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of applications received by Patent Offices from March, 2000 till date for grant of process and product patent and the number of applications cleared so far;
- (f) whether people are facing a lot of problems, who are seeking product of patent; and
- (g) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the problems of the people?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : The project for modernization of the Patent Office at Kolkata alongwith its branches had, inter-alia, the following broad components :-

- + Infrastructure Development
- + Human Resource Development
- + Computerization and re-engineering of works practices
- + Financial and operational autonomy
- + Elimination of backlog of patent applications

Implementation of the project has been delayed due to litigation in the Kolkata High Court. The litigation has also necessitated partial reorientation of the project which is now at various stages of implementation. At present :-

- = Initial level of computerization with Internet connectivity and e-mail facility has been established in all offices;
- = Additional accommodation for Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata has been acquired and work on layout designs and furnishing of the offices is under progress on turn-key basis;
- = The Patent Information System, Nagpur is being upgraded also as a training institute and infrastructure development is under progress;
- = Front office automation software trial is under progress and System Requirement Specifications (SRS) have prepared by the National Informatics Centre;
- = Additional manpower has been / is being provided to Patent Offices; computer training to officers and staff is also in progress;
- = Re-designing of the patenting process and simplification of procedures to expedite disposal of applications has been undertaken;
- = A draft work manual for Patent Office Procedure has been prepared;

= Weeding out of old records has been completed and digitalization of records has been initiated;

= CD-Roms, technical books and journals for improving search facilities are under acquisition.

(e) : 4868 applications have been received by Patent Offices from March, 2000 to January, 2001 and 3153 applications, including backlog applications, have been cleared during this period.

(f) & (g) : Under the existing Patent Law there are provisions for grant of Compulsory Licence, in case reasonable requirements of the public with respect to the patented invention have not been satisfied or where the patented invention is not available to the public at a reasonable price. In addition, the law also provides for deemed `Licence of Right` in case of food, drugs, and chemical substances.

As regards the problem of elimination of backlog of patent applications, Government have increased the monthly target of disposal of patent applications per Examiner by 50%. In addition, a target of 500 patent scrutiny reports per month for each branch office has been fixed.