

trade with Core labour standards; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in the light thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No decision was taken linking trade with labour standards at the Singapore Ministerial Conference. The decision taken was follows :

"We renew our commitment to the observance of internationally recognised core labour standards. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the competent body to set and deal with these standards, and we affirm our support for its work in promoting them. We believe that economic growth and development fostered be increased by trade and further trade liberalization contribute to the promotion of these standards. We reject the use of labour standards for protectionist purposes and agree that the comparative advantage of countries particularly lowwage developing countries, must in no way be put into question. In this regard, we note that the WTO and ILO Secretariats will continue their existing collaboration"

(b) Does not arise.

Registration of Patents under W.T.O.

4380. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of patents registered or applied for registration of patents under the WTO Agreement till date;

(b) the names of the companies who have applied for registration and the names of the products; and

(c) the names of the countries who have applied for the same products which India has applied ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Settings up of EOUS in Gujarat

4381. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cent per cent export oriented units set up during each of the last three years in the State of Gujarat, locationwise; and

(b) the details of such units out of the above which have started commercial production in the State of Gujarat during the above period, location-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) 70 units were set up during the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 in Gujarat in the Districts of Ahmedabad, Baroda, Kheda, Bhavnagar, Kutch, Bharuch, Surat, Vilsad, Mehsana, Gandhinagar, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha and Amreli.

(b) 35 units have started commercial production in the State during the above period. These units are located in the Districts of Valsad, Gandhinagar, Ankleshwar, Bharuch, Mahuva, Bhavnagar, Sabarkantha, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Panchmahal, Surat and Mehsana.

Delays in clearance of imported Goods.

4382. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether frequent complaints about delays in clearance of imported goods by the Customs Department are received;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received and disposed of during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the time fixed for resolving complaints and average time generally taken;

(d) whether self removal procedure for customs clearance is under consideration;

(e) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken; and

(f) if not, the reasons, therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Representations are occasionally received in Custom Houses regarding delay in clearance from importers and exporters.

(c) Senior officers attend to such representations and they are resolved quickly. There is a grievance redressal machinery in each Custom House in the form of Public Grievance Committee and Watch Dog Panel where senior officers and representatives of Trade and Custom House Agents periodically meet to resolve such complaints.

(d) to (f) Facility of Self-Assessment is available to Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings and other importers with proven and unblemished track record subject to fulfilment of specified conditions. Facility of Green Channel and Fast Track Clearance is also available to specified category of big importers such as Super Star Trading Houses, Star Trading Houses, Trading Houses