

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:439

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE DIGITAL LIBRARY

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has developed a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library database in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has signed any agreement with the European Patent Office to set up a mechanism to check bio-piracy in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which such library will be able to check the piracy of patents?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 439 to be answered on 3.8.2009 regarding Traditional Knowledge Digital Library.

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Department of AYUSH, Government of India in collaboration with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has set up a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) on the codified knowledge on Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga for preventing bio-piracy as well as misappropriation of Traditional Medical Knowledge at the International Patent Offices. TKDL establishes prior art for approximately 2.04 lakh formulations transcribed in five international languages, i.e. English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese and prevents the grant of patents, which are based on traditional knowledge on Indian Systems of Medicine.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The access to TKDL database has been provided to European Patent Office in February, 2009 for its use in search and examination purposes. The access has been provided under TKDL Access Agreement which does not permit any third party disclosure except for citation purposes.

(e): Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) brings codified Traditional Medicinal Knowledge of India to the notice of patent examiners to take a view on novelty after conducting a search of the TKDL database.