

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:217  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2011  
SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR MSMES  
Biswal Shri Hemanand ;Tandon Annu

**Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:**

- (a) the role of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) reckoned for MSMEs, especially for those enterprises having innovation and R&D as prominent aspect of their business;
- (b) whether the Government has launched certain schemes for spreading IPR awareness in some areas so as to assist MSMEs in value addition;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that MSMEs register their IP rights to safeguard their knowledge capital?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES(SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 217 FOR ANSWER ON 10.03.2011.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) have become an important tool for trade and commerce as they enable companies/organizations including Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to have a competitive advantage. An enterprise with good IPR has better marketability of its products and enjoys a niche in global economy. Such enterprises can also earn through licensing of their IPRs to others and engage in securing market. Therefore, enterprises having R & D and innovation are definitely benefited.

Recognizing importance of awareness on IPR, Government has taken several initiatives which inter-alia include:

(i) Ministry of MSME has launched a scheme on Building awareness on Intellectual Property Rights for MSMEs under National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP) during 11th Five Year Plan. Objective of the scheme is to enhance awareness among MSMEs about IPRs to take measure for protecting their ideas and business strategies. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for taking up identified initiatives such as Awareness / Sensitization Programmes, Pilot studies, Interactive Seminars / Workshops, Specialised Training, Assistance on Grant of Patent and Geographical Indications (GI) registration, setting up of Intellectual Property Facilitation Centres (IPFCs) for MSMEs and Interaction with International Agencies. Organization of Awareness Programme is one of the key components and so far 105 Awareness Programmes have been conducted in various locations in the country. IPFCs assist MSMEs to have an access to best practices for identification, protection and management of IPRs as a business tool.

(ii) Department of Information Technology (DIT) is implementing a Scheme on IPR awareness in Electronics and IT Sector. This scheme also supports International Patent Protection in electronics and IT for Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Technology Start-Ups to encourage indigenous innovation and to recognize value and capability of global IT and capture growth opportunities in areas of Information Technology and Electronics. Under this scheme, 50% of total cost (to a maximum of Rs. 15 lakh), towards filing international patent by SMEs/Start Ups can be reimbursed by DIT.

(iii) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has undertaken a Plan Scheme for modernization and strengthening of Intellectual Property Office during 11th Five Year Plan. This Scheme has a component of creation of awareness among stakeholders and users by organizing awareness and sensitization programmes. Under this Scheme, Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) regularly conducts Intellectual Property awareness programmes and also in collaboration with other organizations like Industry Associations / Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), and National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) in the country.