

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7227

ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012

WIPO

Anandan Shri K.Murugeshan;Bhujbal Shri Sameer

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

- (a) whether the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has given vent to criticism by the indigenous pharma industry alongwith the number of representations by this industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to Article Two, Three and Four of the said MoU;
- (c) whether the Government has consulted all the stakeholders in this regard before finalizing and signing the MoU referred to above;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) has joined hands with pharmaceutical majors and research institutes to develop an intellectual property (Patent) sharing and management system for drug innovation in the area of neglected diseases;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; (g) whether the move is significant for India as it predicts the development of a new model of low-cost drug development; and (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b): Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13-11-2009 and had agreed on an Action Plan for organization and conduct of joint activities to promote the goal of using Intellectual Property for economic, social, cultural and technological development. The focus of the MoU and the Action Plan was on human resource development, awareness generation and capacity building with respect to Intellectual Property. Both these documents are available at DIPP website www.dipp.nic.in. The MoU and the Action Plan was not operationalized and has since expired.

Article 2 of the MoU allowed the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion to designate a third entity or entities for coordinating the different activities in the MoU. However, no third entity was designated. Articles 3 of the MoU outlined the area of cooperation between DIPP and WIPO and Article 4 of the MoU was on IP Development Action Plan drawn up on the activities identified as priority areas of cooperation. Issues relating to policy, legislation and enforcements were not included in the areas of cooperation under Article 3 and the IP Development Action Plan.

(c) & (d): Under the Allocation of Business Rules, DIPP is the nodal Department responsible for all matters concerning WIPO including coordinating with concerned Ministries or Departments. Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) were consulted while preparing the Action Plan.

(e) to (h): As per information available on WIPO's website, WIPO, in collaboration with leading pharmaceutical companies and BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH), has launched, in October, 2011, WIPO Re:Search, a new consortium where public and private sector organizations share valuable intellectual property (IP) and expertise with the global health research community to promote development of new drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics to treat neglected tropical diseases, malaria, and tuberculosis. Membership in WIPO Re:Search is open to all organizations that support the project's Guiding Principles.