(f) It is for IBA and the associations to conclude the discussions an no time limit can be indicated.

Violation of Patent Act

1483. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :

SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from scientists against the International Patent Act in India to file criminal charges against piracy;

(b) if so , the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no International Patents Act. Patents are granted by respective governments under their patents laws. Violation of patent rights is also to be challenged under those laws by the affected parties.

Leakage of Price Sensitive Information

1484. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has brought to the notice of the Government that some vital price sensitive information leaked to brokers by the officials of stock exchanges thereby creating menace and confusion in money market in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to curb the menace and prevent leakage in stock exchanges in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) According to SEBI the allegations are of a general nature and hence specific details are not available.

(c) SEBI have informed that they have discussed this matter with the Stock exchanges. They have taken the following steps to minimise the possibilities of such leakages of information:

(i) Stock exchanges have been advised to insulate their surveillance departments and make systemic changes to restrict the access to price sensitive information only to certain identified officials.

(ii) A group comprising of elected representatives of major stock exchanges has been set up to evolve a draft code of ethical conduct for the Directors and key functionaries of stock exchanges, which would impose self restraint on them in misusing such information.

[Translation]

Decline in Production of Coffee

1485. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coffee is declining continuously in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have forumlated any scheme to adopt bio-technology in order to increase the production of coffee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Coffee Board has set up a full fledged bio-technology laboratory equipped with the latest instruments and highly qualified scientists specialised in bio-technology, at Mysore (Karnataka). They undertake research studies on clonal multiplication through micropropagation, production of Haploids and Somaclonal variants for breeding purposes, production of interspecific hybrids through Embryo culture and utilisation of Protoplast culture and Somatic hybridisation technique for crossing distantly related species to achieve agronomic traits of the hybrids. These Research studies aim to develop coffee varieties of higher productivity and better quality. A comprehensive bio-technological scheme has also been in operation in the Coffee Board since Eighth Plan.

[English]

Investment in Public and Private Sector

1486. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of investment made in the Public and Private sectors during each of the last three years State-wise;

(b) whether there is any reluctance on the part of the investors to make investment in the backward States; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?