

(d) the details of recommendations made in the report and action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A news item entitled "States Left out of Reforms Process" appeared in the Financial Express dated January 31, 1997. The news-item indicates some of the findings of a report by Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Bombay. As per the report, "the Centre has failed to involve State Governments in the process of economic reforms. The reforms process needs to explicitly involve and co-opt the state Governments. The Government must make a commitment to reduce revenue deficits and expand public investment in infrastructure".

(c) and (d) As contrary to the observation made in the report referred above, most of the State Governments have undertaken significant procedural and policy reforms in line with the liberalisation undertaken by the Centre. The States have been encouraging private investment for development of basic infrastructure and management of industrial houses by awarding various fiscal concessions and other facilities. While the incentive package varies from one State to another, depending upon its investment priorities, the package generally includes a investment subsidy, exemption from payment of excise duty by new undertakings, tax concessions to units in small scale and tiny sectors, supply of industrial land under easy conditions, waivers or concessional rates for electricity duty, subsidies on purchase of machinery and other fixed assets, special incentives to industries involved in modernisation, technological upgradation and quality control, upgrading the facilities available at the District Industries Centres (DICs), opening of single window type information dissemination centres and several other measures. In order to support on-going reforms at the State level, Asian Development Bank has extended a loan assistance of US \$ 250 million for the Gujarat Public Sector Resource Management Programme.

Patent of Neem and Turmeric by USA

1103. CAPT. JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that globalisation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) framework through GATT/TRIPs has not gone hand in hand with the globalisation of screening for prior knowledge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the USA has exported its IPR regims world-wide but has failed to import full knowledge of the state of art in bio-diversity utilisation in different countries, but grants patent based on existing uses of plant based products such as Neem biopesticide and turmeric for healing wounds; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Novelty with respect to information published in India or elsewhere has been the criterion for grant of patents under the Patents Act, 1970. For the purpose of ascertaining novelty of the invention, patent offices are adequately equipped.

(c) and (d) The grant of patent in USA is also based on similar criterion. However, cases where patents have been granted by patent offices due to lack of information, it is possible to seek re-examination/revocation as has been done by the government recently.

Khadi and Village Industries

1104. SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise details of the number of Khadi and village industries Board existing in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government intends to establish a large number of Khadi and Village Industries in the country particularly in Bihar;

(c) whether any review of the existing Khadi and Village Industries has ever been done; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) State-wise details of the Khadi and Village Industries Boards existing in the country at present are given in the attached statement.

(b) It is the endeavour of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to promote as many viable Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) units as possible all over the country including the State of Bihar. As per the recommendations of the High Power Committee to generate employment of 5.6 million persons in KVI sector by the end of 202 AD, KVIC jointly with Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Institutions and Federation of Institutions, is extending the network of support services in terms of raw materials supplies, marketing support, training programmes, technology improvement, establishment of industrial estate etc. In addition to its normal programme, KVIC has also launched special programmes such as 125 Block Development Programme, District Special Employment Programme and National Programmes in Beekeeping, Handmade Paper and Leather. In Bihar, under the 125 Blocks programme, 11 blocks have been selected and under District Special Employment Programme, 4 districts have been selected for implementation of KVI schemes.

(c) and (d) The KVI programme is reviewed every year during the time of budget discussions with the directly aided institutions as well as State KVI Boards