

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3249
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000
PATENT LAW TREATY
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

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

- (a) whether the World Intellectual Property Organisation has circulated a new draft on Patent Law Treaty;
- (b) if so, whether the new draft is found to be a down version of previous draft;
- (c) if so the difference between the previous draft and the new one;
- (d) whether the Government have taken note of this charge;
- (e) whether these changes would be reflected in the new patent law of India; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) to (f): The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) organised a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Patent Law Treaty (PLT) at Geneva during the period from May 11 to June 2, 2000. The Treaty was adopted on June 1, 2000. The adoption of the Treaty was the culmination of an exercise undertaken by WIPO over several years to simplify and streamline procedures for obtaining and maintenance of a patent. Since such formalities vary from country to country, the procedural standardisation achieved through the PLT will offer several advantages to both inventors and the patent offices, such as,

- use of standardised forms and simplified procedures that reduce the risk of error
- cost reductions for inventors, applicants and patent attorneys
- elimination of cumbersome and complicated procedures
- improved efficiency of patent offices and lower operating costs

The Treaty will come into force after ten countries deposit their instruments of ratification or accession with the Director General of WIPO. India has not signed the Treaty. Further, as the Treaty deals with procedural aspects, incorporation of the provisions of the Treaty in the new patents law does not arise.