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Title: Need to strengthen the Head Office for patents registration in Kolkata.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while the country needs to strengthen its infrastructure in relation to patents registration and there is an attempt to appropriate our rich bio-diversity as we have seen in the cases of patenting of *Basmati*, *Neem*, *Karela*, etc., now, there is a move to weaken the patent infrastructure in violation of the Patents Act. This move is aimed at weakening the Kolkata Head Office. About 60 posts from the Head Office have already been taken away to branch offices. As per the Patents Act, branch offices have jurisdiction only up to pre-registration of patents. Now post-registration activities are also being given to branch offices.

This is in violation of Section 74(3) of the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1970. I urge upon the Government that this should not be allowed. This will be disastrous for our country. No attempt should be made to weaken the Head Office at Kolkata.

I urge upon the Government to reply as to what is their thinking about it. They have already held a meeting two days back. This is a disastrous move.