

Title: Issues relating to Patent Laws for products.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, India is obliged to bring a law regarding patent products before 1.1.2005. But, so far, no legislation has come forth and no draft has been given and there is no move from the Government side to pass the Bill before this Session is going to end in three-four days. We apprehend that this is going to come as an Ordinance which, of course, will be a very serious matter because this requires a lot of discussion. It has to go to the Standing Committee and it has to go to the public. It has to be discussed in detail. We would also like to suggest very many important things especially the serious matters have to be taken into account to see that the prices of the life-saving drugs should not go very high and they should be accessible and acceptable.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, this is a very important point.

MR. SPEAKER : I know it; that is why I allowed it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : This patent issue is not being discussed in the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Malhotraji, you are a senior member. I would like him to make his point. Shri Thomas, what is the point you are making?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, all these matters regarding medicine, agriculture, farmers and software are important. We really apprehend that an Ordinance will be issued without discussion. We have been hearing some Members saying that 'I am not prepared to support this law; but because it came as an Ordinance, I have no other way'. We have seen it coming from the side of some supporting parties.

MR. SPEAKER : Very well, that is the point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : So, my submission is that if, at all, the Government intends to bring the law, it should be brought before this Session ends. Secondly, if the Government cannot do that, it must call a Special Session of Parliament immediately so that this must be discussed in detail. It has to go to the Standing Committee and it has also to go to the people for further discussion. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : What is the response of the Government? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Government does not have to respond. This is very unfair.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, the whole country will be suffering. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are 35 matters raised and then on 17 matters, you want the Government to respond every time. No, I cannot ask the Government. It is entirely for the Government to respond. I cannot compel them.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santasri Chatterjee.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not preventing them, but I cannot compel them. You know this very well.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santasri Chatterjee.

Nothing else will be recorded.

(Interruptions) *â€