

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 21.04.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**. INFLUENCING PATENT LAW IN INDIA .**

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SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA

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

- (a) whether the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is detected to have been co-sponsoring a programme launched by a leading multinational pharmaceutical corporation, viz., M/s Pfizer, on patent Law in India;
- (b) whether USPTO is supposed to be regulating the pharmaceutical company;
- (c) if so, whether the US regulator violated basic ethical norm by joining hands with the company knowing that the aim of its programme was to influence patent law in India; and
- (d) if so, whether the case of involvement of USPTO in such glaring conflict of interest has been taken by Government in international fora?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (d): The Government has no direct information on USPTO co-sponsoring a programme with Pfizer Ltd. However, as per information available, the USPTO conducted a single programme last year in India where Pfizer was invited to co-sponsor a public discussion programme with it. The USPTO has since stated that a mistake was made and it has taken corrective action so that it will not happen again.