

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
DIGITIZED TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE LIBRARY .

1022

Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government is aware that United States Patent Office has issued more than three thousand (3000) patents on yoga postures and their variations which originally were part of 'Patanajali's Yogic Shastra or our other ancient classics like the Bhagwad Gita;

(b) if so, whether the Digitized Traditional Knowledge Library set up by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research also contain information relating to Yoga Asanas (Postures) so that European, American and other foreign companies involved in fitness related activities do not claim these as their own; and

(c) the reasons for over 3000 USA patents on yoga postures have not been challenged ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES

(KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes Sir. In the Task Force study carried out by the TKDL team in February 2004 to examine the international patent databases such as United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), it was found that the number of patents on Yoga techniques and instruments were 104. However, a study carried out in May, 2005 revealed the number of patents at USPTO were 134.

(b), Yes Sir. TKDL database would contain information on 900 Yoga asanas or postures and would make these details available to International Patent Offices with whom TKDL Access Agreements have been concluded.

(c) TKDL project involves creation of database and providing access to the TKDL to the International Patent Offices for preventing of grant of wrong patents. Challenging of already granted patents does not come under the purview of TKDL project. Also after turmeric and Basmati patents at USPTO, no other patent has been challenged by Government of India.