

Sharma talks tough on IPR probe

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India today reiterated that its intellectual property rights (IPR) regime is fully compliant to WTO laws and the country will not take part in any unilateral investigation by the USA on the matter.

"India is fully Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) compliant and India is not going to accept any investigations on anything which is TRIPS plus," commerce and industry minister Anand Sharma told reporters here.

"So we are very clear as to what we have to do. We would take any measure as required to protect our producers, our farmers and that is what we have communicated with all firmness," the commerce minister added.

The US Trade Representative (USTR) in its Special 301 report has kept India out of the Priority Foreign Country list, a worst classification, and has said that it would hold discussions with the next government in New Delhi on enforcement and protection of IPRs.

However, the USA has

said that they would do a "out-of-cycle" review of India's IPR regime.

"We are very firm and consistent on (Special) 301 issue and finally the USA saw sense when it comes to Indian IPR regime," the minister said.

The Obama administration had been strongly critical of India's investment climate and IPR laws, especially in the pharmaceutical and solar sectors.

The industry in the USA had raised the matter of India's rejection of patents for Bristol-Myers Squibb's Sprycel and Novartis AG's Glivec.

Patents

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