

India will not accept any intellectual property talks outside WTO: Anand Sharma

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NEW DELHI: India will not accept any attempt made by groups of countries to discuss intellectual property rights outside the multilateral forum of the world trade organisation, commerce and industry minister Anand Sharma has said.

Responding to questions on India's position on the proposed Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), a new intellectual property treaty being framed by a group of developed nations, the minister said a few countries cannot get together and try to change what is and will always be a multilateral regime called the TRIPS agreement.

"If it (Trips agreement) has to be revisited in any stage in future, it will be only in multilateral forum - the WTO, it cannot be done outside," he added speaking at the annual conference of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

India is opposed to the ACTA being discussed between countries such as the US, Japan, Australia, the EU, Canada and New Zealand on the ground that the stringent intellectual property agreement being drafted would affect supplies from non-member countries too.

On the proposed national manufacturing policy, the minister said it would be unveiled soon as all inter-ministerial and stakeholder consultations was over. The government aims at increasing the share of manufacturing sector from 16% to 25% of the GDP by 2020.

Manufacturing contributes over 80% in the country's overall industrial production. The minister said that the Prime Minister will soon chair a meeting on the proposed policy which aims to set up integrated greenfield mega-investment zones to attract global investment and latest technologies.

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