

Seminar on ‘Curbing Counterfeiting and Smuggling – An Imperative for Indian Economy’

15th January, 2013 Patna

FICCI CASCADE as a part of its pan India campaign to generate awareness amongst consumers, industries and enforcement agencies on the ill effects of smuggling and counterfeiting organized a seminar at Patna on 15th January, 2013. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Finance, Bihar inaugurated the seminar. The Hon’ble minister congratulated FICCI for initiating this seminar in Bihar and agreed that counterfeiting is a grave menace to society. Mr. S.D. Sanjay, Additional Advocate General Government of Bihar; Mr. Swayam Prakash, Editor, Prabhat Khabar; Ms Kalpana Reddy, First Secretary US Embassy; Mr. J N Singh , Awake India Foundation; Mr. Sunil Kumar, Cell for Consumer Education and Advocacy; Mr. Sanjay Bhartiya, Secretary General, Bihar Industries Association; Mr. Kishori Lal, Commissioner Customs and Excise Preventive, Bihar; Mr. J S Gangwar, Inspector General Darbhanga Zone, Bihar Police and Mr. Parminder Singh , Head IP Policy Asia – Pacific HP were amongst the other dignitaries present.

The seminar was attended by over 260 delegates hailing from all the sections of the society including the local industry, industry chambers, farmers, students as well as consumer rights organizations. An extensive overview was delivered and it was highlighted that the annual loss to the government in the year 2012 due to fake and spurious goods is Rs. 26,190 Crores. Based on their experiences and knowledge the panelists highlighted the problems and the urgent need to curb the menace. The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation where it was brought to the notice of the panelists that Patna city is the hub of all the counterfeit and fake products especially dealing in medicines, tobacco, cigarettes, alcohol and FMCG. The importance of the seminar was greatly and incidents were cited to demonstrate the lack of enforcement of trademarks and copyrights and its effect on the traders and manufactures in Bihar. It was agreed that there is an urgent need for a conjoint effort, whether all concerned including the enforcement agencies, FICCI, custom officials and general public have to work together to curb the menace of counterfeiting and smuggling.